



Paige Sayles, Chair
FCS Board of Education

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Superintendent

April 12, 2021

Mr. Eric L. Davis
Chair, NC State Board of Education
301 N. Wilmington Street
6302 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825

Dear Mr. Davis and Members of the North Carolina State Board of Education,

This impact statement is being submitted on behalf of the Franklin County Schools Board of Education (FCSBOE). We strongly oppose the request by Wake Preparatory Academy to shift its proposed location from Wake County, as originally approved, to Franklin County. We are adamantly against this for a number of reasons, enumerated below. **The greatest concern that we have is that if this request is honored, it takes an additional step towards resegregation of schools in Franklin County.**

The Issue of Resegregation in Franklin County

As a result of *Harold Douglas Coppedge, et al., United States of America v. The Franklin County Board of Education*, the district has operated under a series of desegregation orders (including orders issued in 1967, 1968, 1970, 1978, 1994, 1996, and 2003) that require the FCSBOE to “eliminate the vestiges of discrimination.”

In accordance with this order, the FCSBOE has been operating under federal guidance intended to ensure desegregation of schools. Areas of focus have most recently included desegregation of staff, quality of education (academic achievement, advanced course offerings and enrollment, special education programming, and student dropouts), student discipline, and student assignment to schools. The district has made significant progress in a number of areas. As a result of this progress, on December 18th, 2018, a “Joint Motion for Declaration of Partial Unitary Status” (filed by the United States and Franklin County Board of Education) was granted.

The Court currently has jurisdiction over the assignment of students engaged in the Districts’ majority-to-minority transfer program through the 2024-25 school year. Students have been given an opportunity to participate in this reassignment program in an attempt by the Federal government to ensure that student assignment within the District is as racially balanced as is practicable, providing families with the opportunity for transfer to a school in which they represent a minority of the current school population.

In addition, the District is still under obligation and oversight with regard to the administration of discipline and the gifted and talented program. This oversight includes regular reporting to the Department of Justice (DOJ), as well as receiving feedback on practices from DOJ legal counsel and responding with appropriate measures to address areas of concern.

The FCSBOE is concerned that despite 53 years of efforts to ensure that our schools are demonstrating a level of accountability and commitment to diversity and equity in our practices, this work could be undone with the growing presence of charters in our county. We currently have two charter schools within Franklin County- Crosscreek Charter and Youngsville Academy. These charter schools reside in the district, and are, by definition, considered to be public schools. They receive state and local funding. Their original charters indicated that they would recruit students representatively. This is also required by North Carolina General Statute § 115C-218.45, which states:

Admission requirements: “[w]ithin one year after the charter school begins operation, the charter school shall make efforts for the population of the school to reasonably reflect the racial and ethnic composition of the general population residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located or the racial and ethnic composition of the special population that the school seeks to serve residing within the local school administrative unit in which the school is located. The school shall be subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in effect for the local school administrative unit.”

Local charter school data suggests that this has not happened. This is illustrated in **Figure 1**. We would also argue that the Wake Preparatory Academy application provides no indication that they acknowledge this statute or the concerns regarding racial and ethnic representation that it is intended to support, or that they have a means and method for ensuring compliance. Additionally, the processes identified at the state level as they apply to management of charter schools demonstrate a lack of oversight to ensure that any intent to address racial/ethnic balance within the school community is being met or will be met going forward.

See **Figure 1** below:

Charter Schools Housed in Franklin County

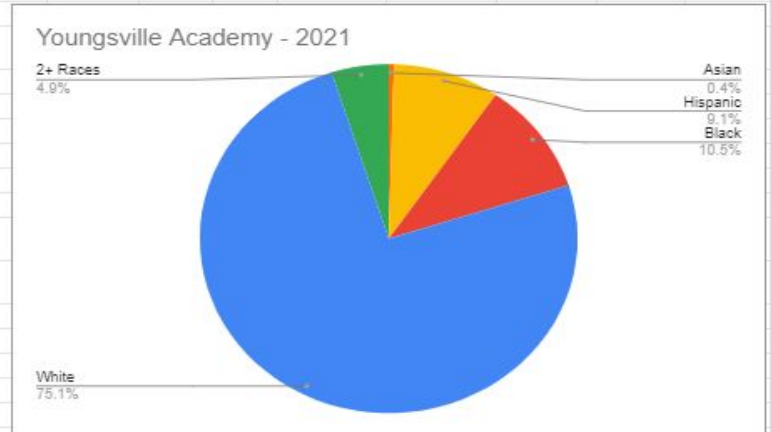
These charter schools are currently located in Franklin County. They receive state and local funds, are considered a public school, yet they do not operate under the purview of the existing DOJ Consent Order and their programs run counter to our efforts to desegregate our schools.

FIGURE 1: Breakdown by Race/Ethnicity: Internal Charter Schools

Youngsville Academy

Year	CS	Charter School Name	INDIAN Male	INDIAN Female	ASIAN Male	ASIAN Female	HISPANIC Male	HISPANIC Female	BLACK Male	BLACK Female	WHITE Male	WHITE Female	TWO OR MORE RACES Male	TWO OR MORE RACES Female	PACIFIC ISLAND Male	PACIFIC ISLAND Female	Total
2016	35B	Youngsville Academy	0	0	0	0	8	6	7	6	46	61	2	2	0	1	139
2017	35B	Youngsville Academy	0	0	0	1	7	7	5	9	79	91	3	3	0	0	205
2018	35B	Youngsville Academy	0	0	0	1	7	9	7	11	114	113	3	1	0	0	266
2019	35B	Youngsville Academy	0	0	0	2	15	10	10	9	142	136	3	4	1	0	332
2020	35B	Youngsville Academy	0	0	0	2	18	10	16	10	169	154	7	5	0	0	391
2021	35B	Youngsville Academy	0	0	0	2	22	19	22	25	166	171	10	12	0	0	449

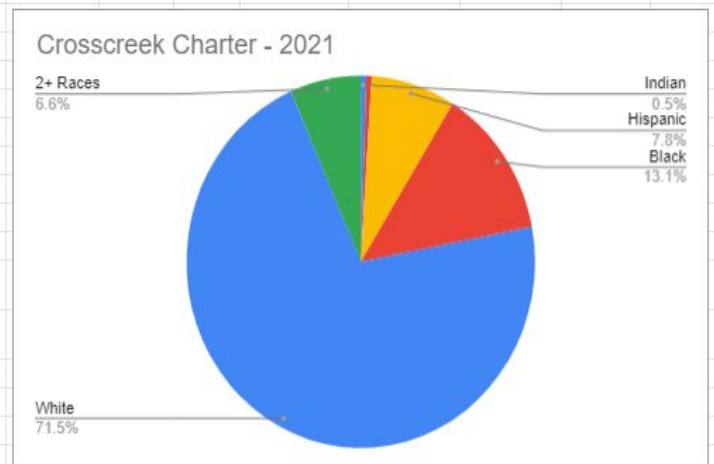
Youngsville Academy		2021	
Race	N	%	
Indian	0	0.00%	
Asian	2	0.45%	
Hispanic	41	9.13%	
Black	47	10.47%	
White	337	75.06%	
2+ Races	22	4.90%	
Pacific Island	0	0.00%	
Total	449		



Crosscreek Charter

Year	CS	Charter School Name	INDIAN Male	INDIAN Female	ASIAN Male	ASIAN Female	HISPANIC Male	HISPANIC Female	BLACK Male	BLACK Female	WHITE Male	WHITE Female	TWO OR MORE RACES Male	TWO OR MORE RACES Female	PACIFIC ISLAND Male	PACIFIC ISLAND Female	Total
2011	35A	CROSSCREEK CHARTE	0	0	0	0	2	3	14	14	59	47	2	1	0	0	142
2012	35A	CROSSCREEK CHARTE	0	0	0	0	5	1	12	24	62	64	3	3	0	0	174
2016	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	0	0	0	7	3	10	13	77	67	6	2	0	0	185
2013	35A	CROSSCREEK CHARTE	0	0	0	0	6	2	17	16	74	61	2	3	0	0	181
2017	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	0	0	0	11	4	12	12	82	78	5	2	0	0	206
2015	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	0	0	1	6	2	11	16	79	64	5	1	0	0	185
2014	35A	CROSSCREEK CHARTE	0	0	0	1	4	2	11	13	77	67	3	2	0	0	180
2018	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	0	0	0	13	4	14	12	88	83	3	3	0	0	220
2019	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	0	0	0	14	4	14	21	79	110	6	9	0	0	257
2020	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	1	0	1	17	6	16	31	108	146	11	11	0	0	348
2021	35A	Crosscreek Charter Scho	0	2	1	1	20	11	18	34	129	154	14	12	0	0	396

Crosscreek		2021	
Race	N	%	
Indian	2	0.51%	
Asian	2	0.51%	
Hispanic	31	7.83%	
Black	52	13.13%	
White	283	71.46%	
2+ Races	26	6.57%	
Pacific Island	0	0.00%	
Total	396		



Overall Charter School Impact on Franklin County Schools' Desegregation Efforts

The reach of charters extends beyond just those housed in Franklin County. We currently have students who are Franklin County residents who are enrolled in 31 different charter schools in the county and within the surrounding area(s). The racial makeup of these external charter schools mirrors that of the internal charters (Crosscreek Charter, Youngsville Academy). See **Figure 2a** for a comparison of student demographics prior in spring of 2020-21 as compared to spring of 2015, when the charter school impact was just beginning to be felt. See **Figure 2b** for a breakdown of the students who are leaving Franklin County Schools to attend charters based upon race/ethnicity. See **Figure 3a**, and **Figure 3b** for an illustration of the demographic breakdown of area charter schools and the population makeup of those they serve.

FIGURE 2a: Student Demographics Comparison- 2015 to 2021

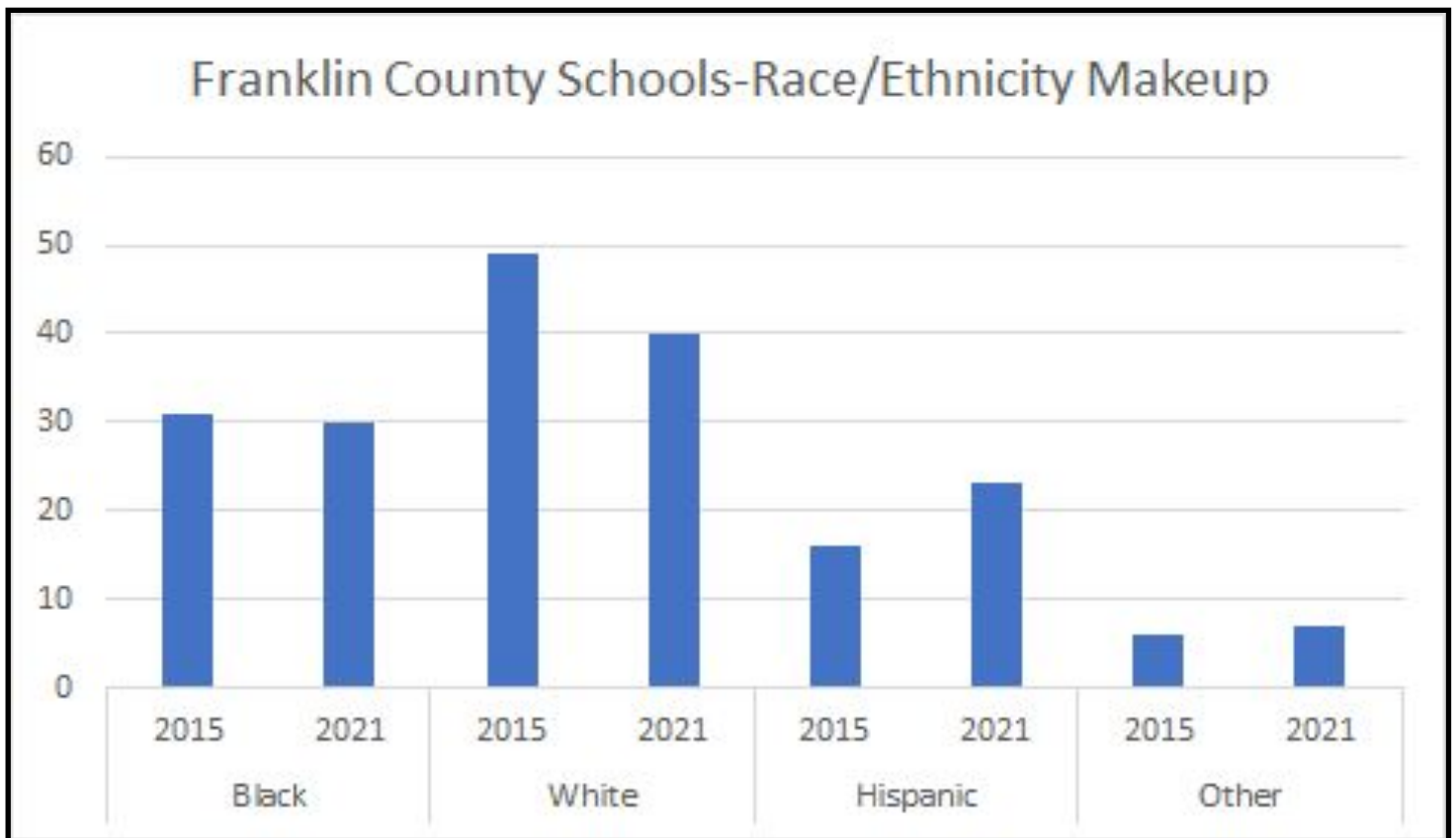


FIGURE 2b: Race/Ethnicity of Students Leaving Franklin County Schools to Attend Charters

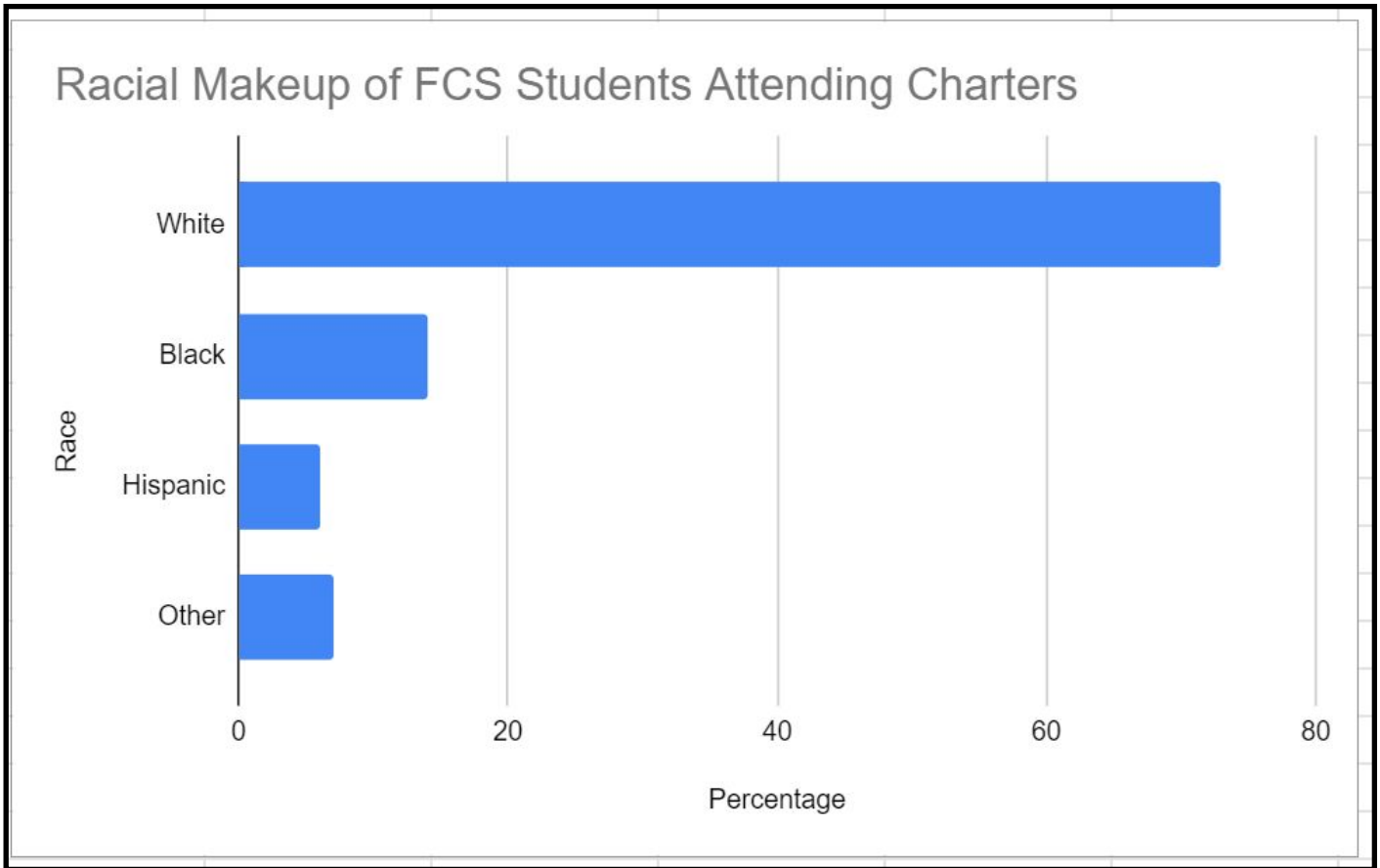


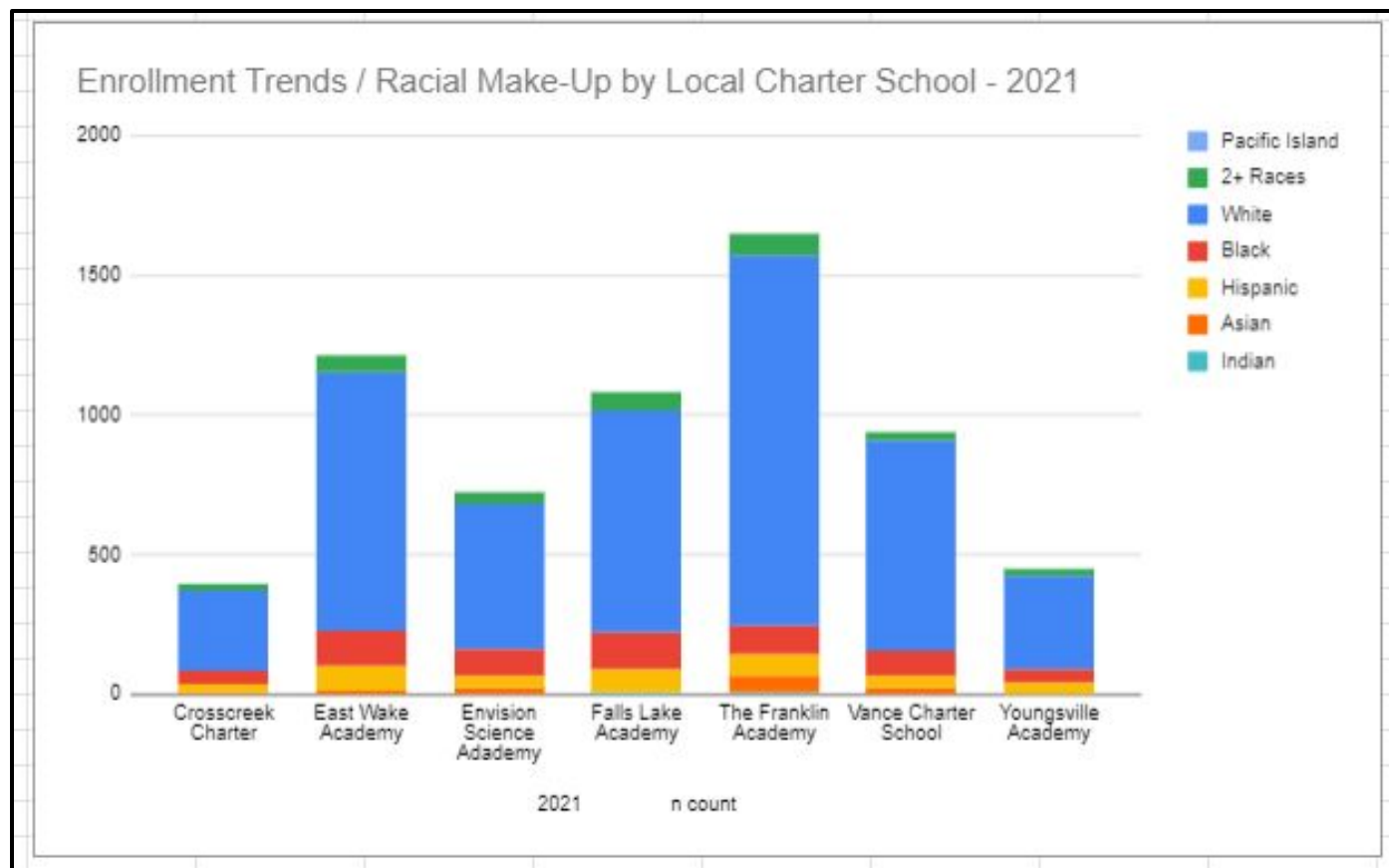
FIGURE 3a: Charter Schools with Highest Number of Franklin County Schools’ Students Enrolled in Their Program(s) (Inside and Outside of County)

This data represents the overall enrollment of the area charter schools with greatest Franklin County enrollees. As indicated, the data demonstrates a disproportionate representation of white students as compared to the general population of the community (as evidenced by the data represented above).

2021 PERCENT	Crosscreek Charter	East Wake Academy	Envision Science Academy	Falls Lake Academy	The Franklin Academy	Vance Charter School	Youngsville Academy	Total Percent
Indian	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.17%
Asian	0.5%	0.8%	3.3%	0.5%	3.9%	2.7%	0.4%	2.06%
Hispanic	7.8%	7.7%	6.1%	7.6%	4.6%	4.0%	9.1%	6.27%
Black	13.1%	10.4%	13.2%	11.8%	6.2%	9.8%	10.5%	9.96%
White	71.5%	76.0%	71.5%	73.3%	80.4%	80.4%	75.1%	76.48%
2+ Races	6.6%	5.1%	5.8%	6.5%	4.5%	2.9%	4.9%	5.02%
Pacific Island	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.05%

FIGURE 3b: Breakdown by Race/Ethnicity

This chart is an additional visual representation on the race/ethnicity breakdown of the charter schools that receive the greatest number of potential FCS students, both inside and outside of county.



The Cumulative Effect of Charter Schools and Resegregation of Franklin County Schools

Based upon the data provided, there is a clear indication that charter schools that reach into our community (both the two internally and the 29 externally) are drawing primarily from our white student population. As charter school enrollment increases in our county, we anticipate that the trend towards resegregation will continue to escalate. We cannot afford as a community to let this happen. Wake Preparatory Academy anticipates enrollment at 1605 students, with 20% of those coming from Franklin County. There is no basis for the 20% number, as the weighted lottery does not allow for consideration of the county in which the student resides as part of the process. We are concerned that with the program being housed in-county, the percentage could rise much higher. This, coupled with the projected expansion of internal charter school programs in our county, has the potential to significantly impact our efforts to ensure desegregation of schools.

Lack of Standards and Accountability for Existing Franklin County Charters

Wake Preparatory Academy has identified metrics for enrollment, including a goal of 20% of students from Franklin County, and 80% from Wake County. Additionally, they have stated in their application that:

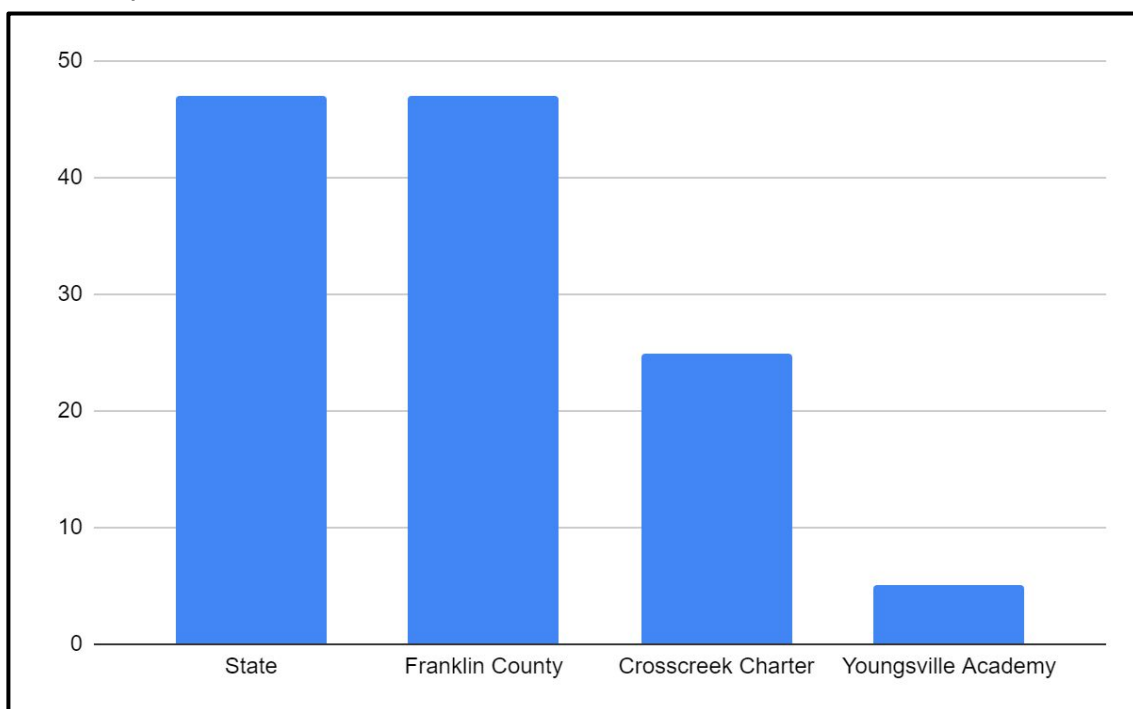
“Our plans and budget reflect a similar student population to WCPSS. Students in WCPSS are: 46% white; 23% black; 17.17% Hispanic; 8.8% Asian; and 3.8% multiracial. Over 31% participate in the free and reduced-priced lunch program, 13% are EC, and 7% are ELLs.”

Note that the plan addresses Wake County’s population. Franklin County’s demographics are different, although this data was not addressed in the Wake Preparatory Academy application. Students in FCS are: 40% white; 30% black; 23% Hispanic, and 7% multiracial. 47% participate in the free-reduced-priced lunch program, 12% are EC, and 6.5% are ELLs.

The goals that have been established as percentages served in various categories- county of residence, race/ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, EC, and ELL, do not have any basis in reality in terms of a tangible plan for meeting these targets, nor is there any plan for monitoring these goals versus the reality of these metrics once charter schools are approved. Data regarding the projections versus the reality for race/ethnicity have already been shared in **Figure 1**. In addition, there is no evidence that any efforts are being made to recruit economically disadvantaged students to local charters, and if those efforts are being made, little evidence of success. This is especially true of Youngsville Academy, where their charter application emphasizes attracting at-risk students and only 5% of students are identified as economically disadvantaged after over five years in operation. See **Figure 4**:

FIGURE 4: Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students

Data based on NC Report Card 2018-19



Youngsville Academy's initial application identified a 25% gap between white and black students, and stated that:

"We aim to help close the significant achievement gap that exists in Franklin County Schools. The following chart, with data provided by Education First NC School Report Cards, details the EOG and NCLB performance within Franklin County Public Schools. There is more than a 25% gap between white student and black student performance, with a significant gap also existing between white and Hispanic performance. Direct Instruction, the instructional methodology we will adopt, has been shown to significantly reduce the achievement gap."*

**Chart was referenced but no chart provided in application.*

There is no evidence to examine to determine whether Youngsville Academy has begun to close those existing achievement gaps, as there are not enough students enrolled in either the black or Hispanic subgroups to prevent that data from being personally identifiable. There is also no "EC" or "ELL" subgroup at Youngsville Academy. As a result, there are only two subgroups noted for Youngsville Academy on the NCDPI School Report Card- "white" and "all."

There are also few specifics on how this work to identify and bring students at risk of academic failure into the school environment is taking/will take place, either at existing charters such as Youngsville Academy or a potential charter like Wake Preparatory Academy. Transportation is a barrier for economically disadvantaged students, and a few drop locations and/or an online carpool document does not begin to eliminate this barrier. Youngsville Academy specifically stated in their application that they would begin to transport students in year four. Five years in, students in need of transportation are encouraged to carpool (according to the YA website). Families applying online must hand-deliver their applications to the front office of the school.

In terms of meal access, there is little to indicate that existing charters have specific and proactive plans in place to connect with students to provide free and reduced lunches. Youngsville Academy allows families to bring their lunch or purchase through the My Hot Lunchbox program. There is a generic free/reduced lunch application, dated 2018-19, posted on the website. Youngsville Academy does not participate in the state's free/reduced lunch program. The website does state that they will assist families who are at or below 130 percent of the poverty level, but it is unclear what that assistance includes. It is evident based upon the existing meal structure for students that this plan is not financially viable for many families. See **Table 1** below.

TABLE 1: My Hot LunchBox- Weekly Lunch Schedule for Youngsville Academy Students

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chick-fil-A	Rosalini's Pizza and Subs	Rosalini's Pizza and Subs	Papa John's	Moe's Southwest Grill
\$ 7.39	\$ 6.44	\$ 6.44	\$ 1.54 (per slice)	\$ 6.02

**Least expensive entree, side and drink chosen from all vendors. Papa John's does not offer sides or drinks.*

Additional requirements further disenfranchise economically disadvantaged families, including the expectation that uniforms be purchased through Lands End, Tommy Hilfiger, or French Toast.

Wake Preparatory Academy's "weighted" application is intended to address the issue of economic disadvantage, but there is little in the way of specifics on how this will be managed. The application notes that transportation will be provided, but this consists of encouraging carpooling and the potential for two or three pickup spots for those who live more remotely. This still requires transportation for students to get to and from the pick-up location, essentially eliminating those who do not have the means and method of doing so from participating in the Wake Preparatory Academy program.

And the issues associated with transportation and access for economically disadvantaged students go hand in hand. Provision of meal access without a reliable and consistent opportunity to ride a bus to and from school is a barrier to many students.

A Flawed Process

In an attempt to better understand the process for “greenlighting” charter schools, FCS conducted a review of the application process for Youngsville Academy. The application, approved in 2013 by the Charter School Advisory Board, and later by the State Board of Education, was initially reviewed by a committee that provided ratings in a variety of areas. Each identified area was marked as “excellent,” “adequate,” and “inadequate.” In a number of subcategories, the majority of ratings were “inadequate.” There were no “excellent” ratings in any subcategory. The application was not revised to address inadequacies, and instead these inadequacies were resolved through a verbal interview process, and the school was approved by the Charter School Advisory Board and advanced to the State Board of Education for approval. This lack of documentation of resolved identified inadequacies (with at least half of the committee providing this deficient rating) in areas such as “Goals of Charter,” “Exceptional Children,” “Transportation,” and “Student Conduct and Discipline” were never addressed in writing prior to receiving the approval of the Charter School Advisory Board.

In the case of Wake Preparatory Academy, the application review process indicates a series of “pass” and “fail” ratings, with some Charter School Advisory Board review members weighing in to express concerns regarding issues of mission and goals of the school, staffing, and conflict of interest with potential “double-dipping” due to the partnership between Charter One and Schoolhouse Development, both of which are owned in part by Glenn Way. None of these concerns were addressed directly through an amendment to the charter application in order to gain approval. Instead, these concerns were addressed “verbally.” The lack of clarity, in writing, of the goals and intended outcomes of charter schools lays a foundation that allows for little future accountability and oversight.

Once a charter school is approved, the annual “Charter School Performance Framework” report is completed. This report includes no narrative, and is simply a 4 page document with a status marking in each category. This framework focuses on compliance with basic requirements for adhering to the laws and rules that govern charter schools in North Carolina. Section B, “Operational Renewal Monitoring Criteria,” is marked with a “-” in each category, with no status identified. This is the section that focuses on “consistently implementing the mission and educational program in the approved charter application,” among other designations in this category. This document appears to rely on self-reporting and is little more than a basic compliance check.

Based upon the lack of programmatic oversight and commitment to ensuring that charter schools are meeting their goals, specifically in regards to targets for reaching students that proportionally represent their school communities, we have little confidence that the identified focus of meeting the needs of a diverse student population in Franklin County will be accomplished by Wake Preparatory Academy.

Wake Preparatory, Charter One, American Leadership Academy, and Schoolhouse Development

Wake Preparatory Academy is being sponsored by Charter One, a charter school management company based in Arizona and owned by Glenn Way, a pioneer of for-profit charter schools who has made millions of dollars generated by taxpayer-funded charter initiatives. Way's initial venture, American Leadership Academy, paved the way for Charter One. He is also a partner in Schoolhouse Development and Schoolhouse Development East, both of which purchase and develop properties and sell or lease them to charter schools managed by American Leadership Academy (or Charter One) for profit, with the funding revenue stream coming from taxpayers.

According to Hui (2019), "The N.C. Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended that state approval be given to Wake Preparatory Academy, a K-12 charter school that wants to open in Wake Forest in 2020. It would be the first charter school in North Carolina for Glenn Way, an Arizona businessman who has made millions of dollars building, selling and leasing properties to the charter schools he runs."

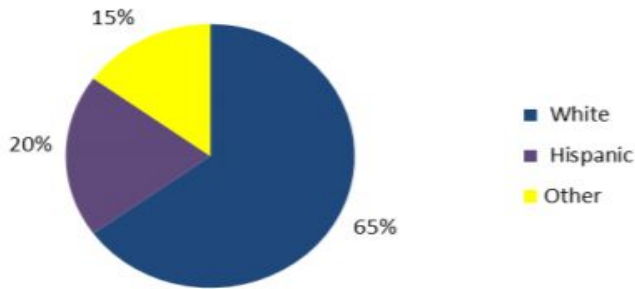
Hui goes on to draw the connection between Way and his various holdings, stating that "Charter One manages American Leadership Academy, a network of Arizona charter schools. Way, a former Utah state legislator, founded ALA and owns Charter One and Schoolhouse Development."

"NC Charter School That Would Pay Millions to an Arizona Businessman Gets State Backing," Keung Hui, News & Observer, April 8, 2019.

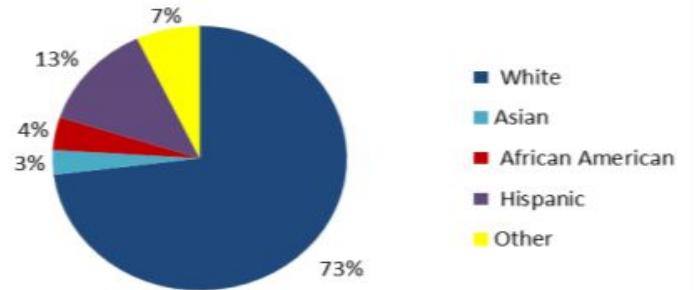
In terms of Charter One's track record, specifically as it pertains to meeting the needs of the at-risk and diverse population that it touts in the application, an examination of charters managed by Charter One demonstrates that there is an evident lack of diversity among the students they currently serve. American Leadership Academy, a precursor to Charter One based on Arizona (also owned by Way), demonstrates this lack of diversity in enrollment. See **Figure 5**.

FIGURE 5: American Leadership Academy Demographic Breakdown

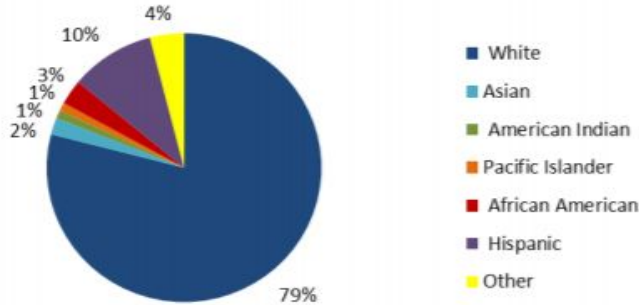
**American Leadership Academy , Anthem K-6
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



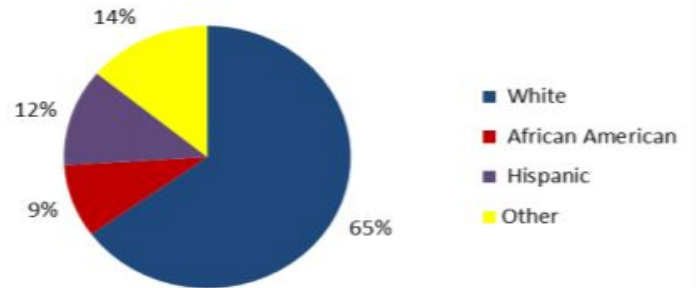
**American Leadership Academy , Gilbert K-6
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



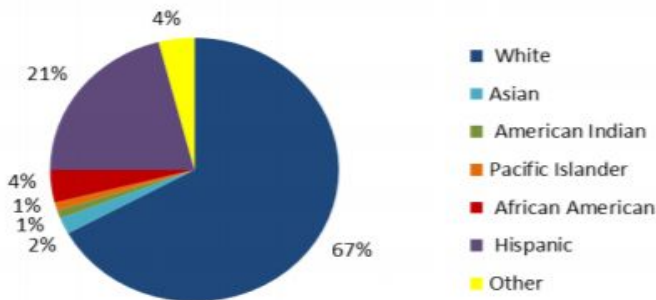
**American Leadership Academy, Gilbert North K-12
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



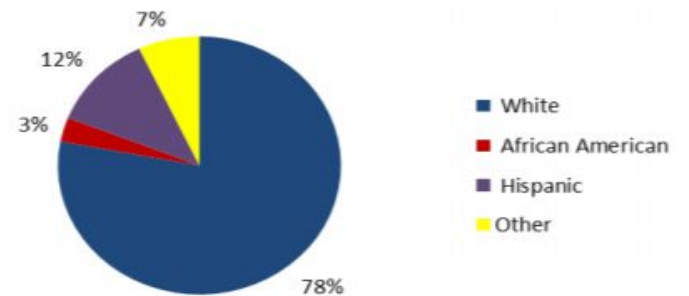
**American Leadership Academy, Gilbert South K-6
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



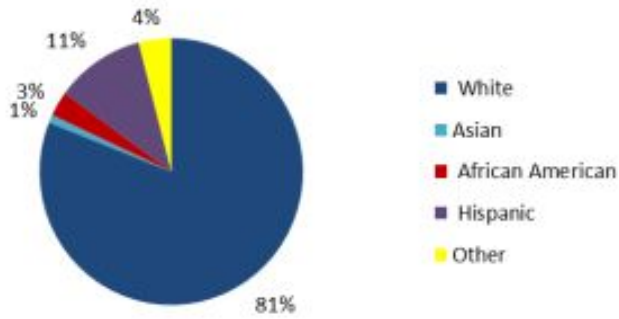
**American Leadership Academy, Ironwood K-12
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



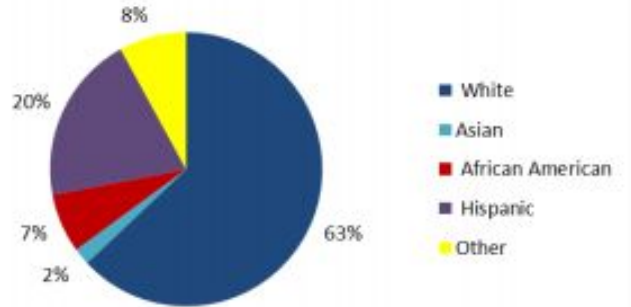
**American Leadership Academy, Mesa K-6
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



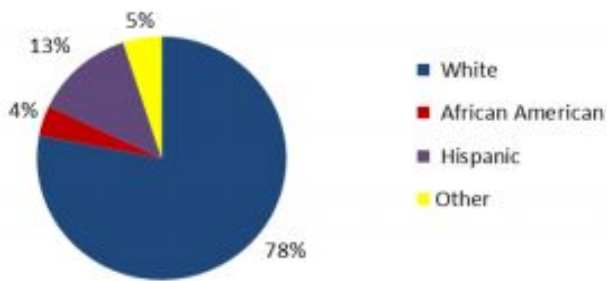
**American Leadership Academy, Queen Creek K-12
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



**American Leadership Academy, San Tan Valley K-6
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



**American Leadership Academy, Signal Butte K-6
2018-2019 Demographic Breakdown**



Source: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Arizona Online Instructional Program Amendment Request, on behalf of American Leadership Academy, May 13, 2020.

Lack of Preparedness

Wake Preparatory Academy began planning for its Wake County location at least a year in advance, utilizing Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP to conduct a comprehensive site review in preparation for the recommendation to the Wake Forest Planning Board in October 2020. The land, for which Schoolhouse Development East was the vendee of a purchase contract for development of the property (the company whose owner is also an owner of Charter One) was the subject of considerable review and analysis in preparation for the Wake Forest Planning Board meeting. A subdivision master plan and a site master plan were developed. These plans included a review of community standards and long-range planning to ensure compliance with the vision and mission of the community, as well as detailed plans for the position of three distinctive buildings, entry and exit onto the property, and a focus on providing a planned community approach including sidewalks and greenways to create an accessible campus for those living nearby. An Enhanced Transportation Impact Analysis was conducted, and then reviewed by DOT for approval. As noted in the presentation to the Wake Forest planning board, “over the series of several months” there was a back-and-forth between the Administrator and Technical Review Committee. A review of the infrastructure was conducted by the City of Raleigh Public Utility to ensure adequate water and sewer access.

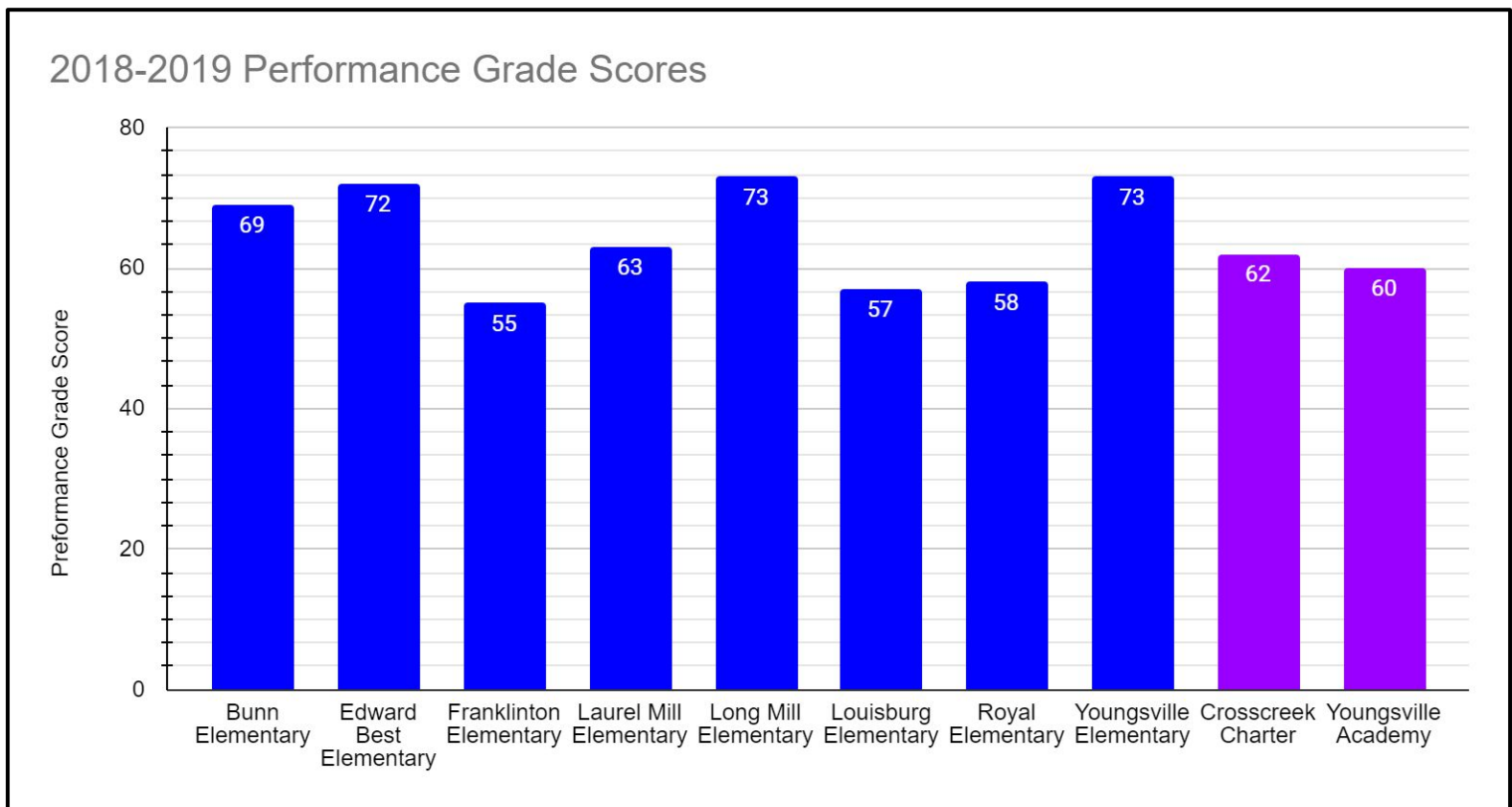
To our knowledge, none of these steps have been taken for the newly identified Youngsville location. A preliminary search reveals no traffic impact analysis on the section of Hwy US 1 (managed by the NC Dept of Transportation) that would be used by this school. The travel safety for existing businesses and residents would be compromised significantly. This new site sits behind a commercially developed area directly off of Capital Blvd. in a congested area. It is zoned as “special use” and will require rezoning. At present, the detailed plan to develop walking and biking routes to school does not appear feasible based upon this new location. Water and sewer will need to be considered, and water limitations in Franklin County may prove to be a barrier.

There are many details that would need to be worked through to determine whether this site is even a feasible location. Just as the substance of Wake Preparatory Academy’s application has not been adjusted to shift from Wake to Franklin County, the location has not been carefully examined and steps have not been taken to truly consider the feasibility of this location for a new school.

Franklin County Schools are Performing Well

One of the primary tenets of the charter school push in Franklin County (beyond closing achievement gaps and reaching economically disadvantaged students with the students they serve, which data has demonstrated has not happened), is the need to provide an academically challenging environment in which all students can succeed. A comparison of charter schools and public schools based in Franklin County demonstrates that Franklin County Schools are performing competitively with these charters, despite the fact that the district is serving a racially/ethnically diverse population with much greater percentages of economically disadvantaged, ELLs, and EC learners. See **Figure 6**.

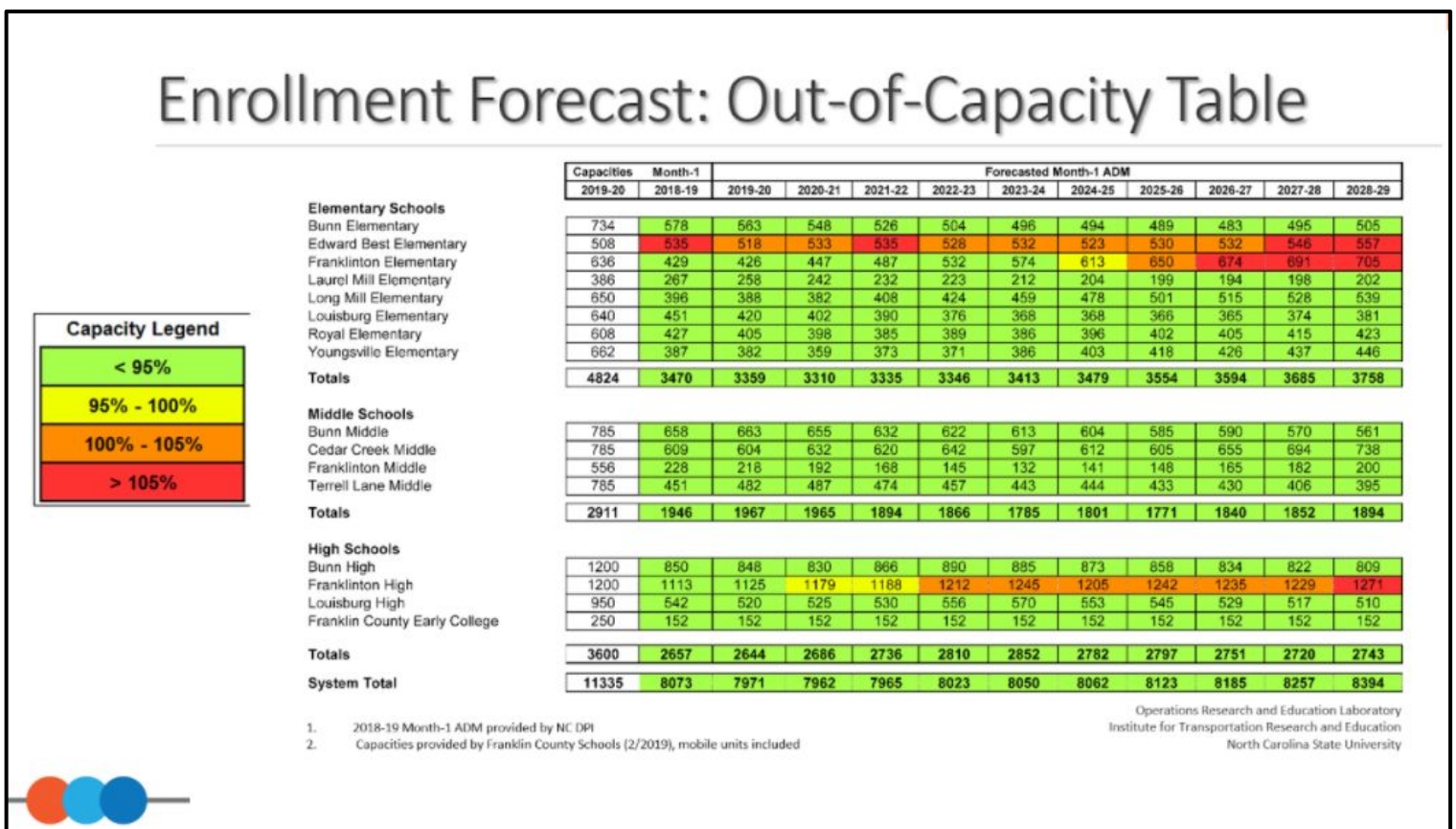
FIGURE 6: Comparative Performance of Local Charters and Franklin County Schools



There is Room for Enrollment Growth in Franklin County Schools

The Wake Preparatory Academy application, even in its most recent iteration, focuses primarily on Wake County. Once it was determined that a location in Wake County could not be secured and the location in Franklin County was under consideration, the application was only minimally amended to include a change of county name from “Wake” to “Franklin.” As part of Wake Preparatory Academy’s application, they emphasize the overcrowding of Wake County Schools as a challenge to which they will be able to respond with their programming. Student enrollment projections in Franklin County paint a different picture. In 2018, Franklin County Schools contracted with OrED at NCState to project for future growth. As you can see in **Figure 7**, there is room for growth in Franklin County Schools for the foreseeable future.


FIGURE 7: Projected Long-Term Enrollment in Franklin County Schools



Charter Schools in Franklin County are Impacting District Financial Ability to Meet Student Needs

The increasing financial burden of utilizing existing district funds to support additional schools and programs means that we are less effectively able to meet staffing, infrastructure, and student support needs that do not diminish as student enrollment shifts to charter schools. The impact of charter schools on our local budget can be found in **Figure 8**:

FIGURE 8: FCS Budgetary Impact of Charter Schools

Impact of Charter Schools on our budget 						
YEAR	FCS ADM	CS ADM*	COMBINED ADM	COUNTY APPROPRIATION	PPA	PAYMENT TO CS
2015-2016	8469	985	9454	\$14,472,841	\$1,531	\$1,508,035
2016-2017	8344	1121	9465	\$15,265,283	\$1,613	\$1,808,173
2017-2018	8163	1224	9387	\$16,365,283	\$1,744	\$2,134,656
2018-2019	8109	1438	9547	\$16,898,093	\$1,770	\$2,545,332
2019-2020	8109	1581	9690	\$20,349,831	\$2,100	\$3,320,100
2020-2021	8109	1739	9848	\$21,192,936	\$2,152	\$3,742,328
2021-2022 (Depend on ADM projections & county appropriations)	7821-8109	1623-1798	9,444-9,907	\$21,192,936 TBD	\$2,139-\$2,244	\$4,034,712 (using highest ADM projections and current appropriation)

These are "pass through" funds that the district receives and redistributes to charter schools

*Projections for planning purposes

In the Wake Preparatory Academy application, they reference a projection of a per pupil allotment of \$1500.00 in local funding. Our local per pupil allocation is currently \$2,218.61/student. At a rate of 321 students attending Wake Preparatory Academy per year, we would be looking at expending \$712,174 additionally in year one to support Wake Preparatory students. This is based upon an arbitrary 20% of attendees coming from Franklin County. There is no basis for this number except a guess from Wake Preparatory Academy, as the application process does not allow a "weighted" approach to selection based upon residency. We anticipate that this number could be much higher. This is also a projection for year one only. Each year their program is projected to grow.

In Conclusion


The charter school impact on Franklin County is evident. Over the past seven years, we have seen charters move into the area and lay a foundation to resegregate our schools. This has taken place in disregard of North Carolina General Statute § 115C-218.45, which was legislated in an attempt to ensure that schools were not racially/ethnically segregated as a result of the North Carolina charter school movement. Yet there are no checks and balances in place at the state level to either prevent charter schools from coming in without a plan to resegregate, or to address existing charters that are instrumental in resegregating schools. During this time, and in spite of increased segregation of schools within our county, we have continued to work closely with the Department of Justice to not only comply with our desegregation order, but to grow as a district in embracing diversity and equity as key tenets to meeting the needs of every student in our care.

The data is clear: The charter schools in our area do not represent the racial/ethnic diversity of our community. Every indication, both from the current trajectory of charter schools in our area and the track record of Charter One and American Leadership Academy, is that opening the door to Wake Preparatory Academy in Franklin County will further stratify the population both racially and socioeconomically.

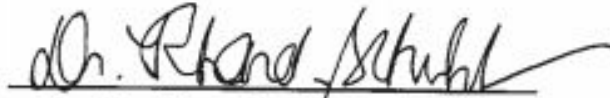
And we also hold little confidence that the charter school approval process is thoughtful, thorough, and designed to provide the level of oversight necessary to prevent this resegregation from continuing. This is evidenced from the initial approval process through to the annual review of charter school performance.

The charter schools that are interested in coming to Franklin County insist that they are doing so to fill a void- to close achievement gaps and meet the needs of a diverse population of students. The reality is that there is no void. Franklin County Schools has and will continue to provide a high-quality education that meets the needs of all learners. This can be accomplished without further diluting public school resources and dividing our population along racial and socioeconomic lines.

For these reasons, we urge the Charter Advisory Board and the State Board of Education to deny the request for Wake Preparatory Academy to relocate to Franklin County.



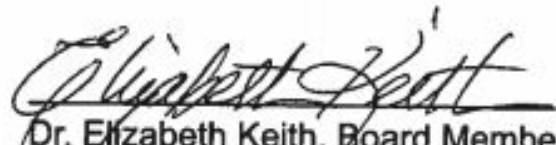
Paige Sayles, Board Chair
Franklin County Schools



Dr. Rhonda Schuhler, Superintendent
Franklin County Schools



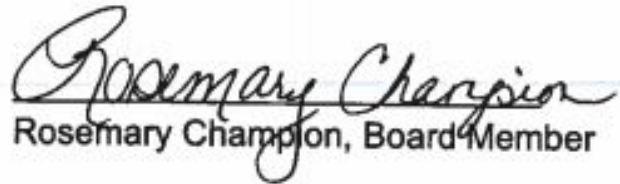
Bernard Hall, Vice Chair



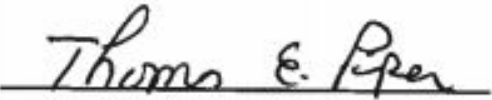
Dr. Elizabeth Keith, Board Member



Debra Brodie, Board Member



Rosemary Champion, Board Member



Thomas Piper, Board Member



Meghan Jordan, Board Member