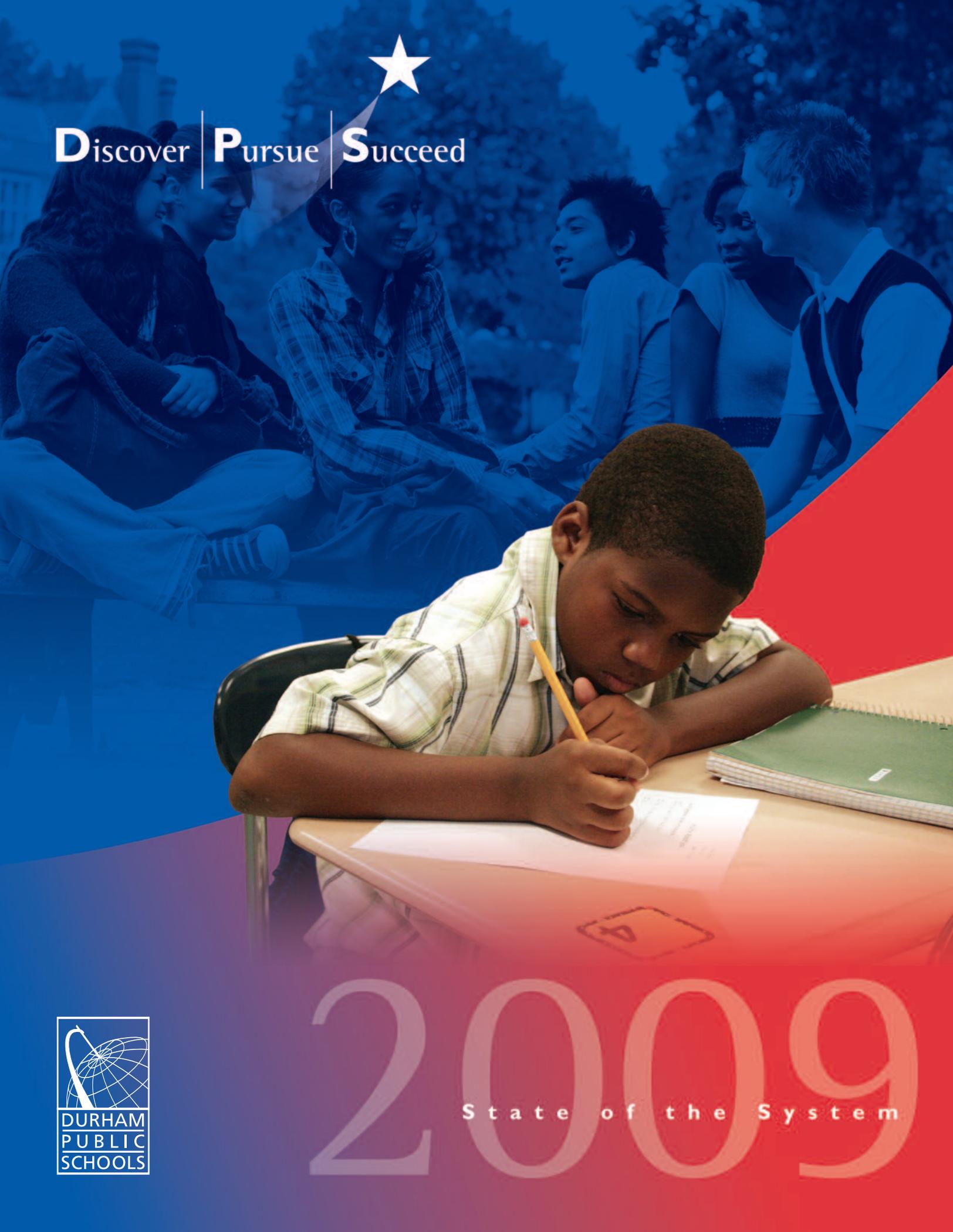


Discover | Pursue | Succeed



2009

State of the System

academy

City of Medicine Now Has **Medical High School**



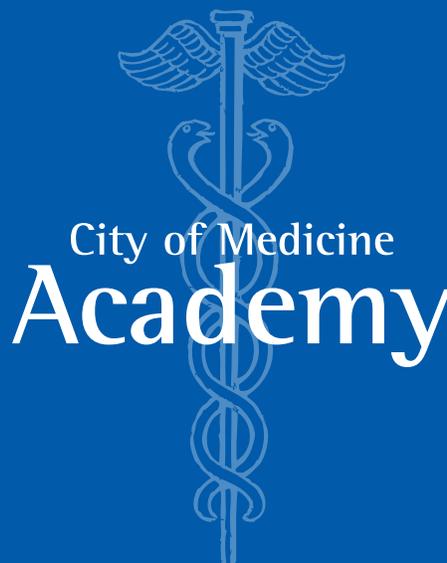
Duke Health System Chancellor Dr. Victor Dzau reviews work of City of Medicine students.

When Duke Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. Victor Dzau visited 4100 N. Roxboro Road in September he was most impressed with the students and staff he met at Durham's newest high school, the City of Medicine Academy.

The school opened in the renovated Verizon Building, close to Durham Regional Hospital and other medical facilities. The Academy will be housed in this location for approximately three years while a new facility is built adjacent to Durham Regional with 2007 bond funds. CMA previously was a Career-Tech program based at Southern High School. Durham's wealth of medical resources and potential for preparing students for medical careers resulted in the program becoming a school.

Students at the school participate in a four-year program to prepare them to pursue health care careers. As a result of Dr. Dzau's visit and the commitment of Duke's Associate Vice President MaryAnn Black, some 15 CMA students participated in internships during the summer of 2009.

CMA is a part of the North Carolina New Schools Project.



Durham Public Schools is pleased to provide you with our 2009 State of the System annual report. In the pages that follow you will see a firsthand account of the progress we made during the 2008-09 school year.

Higher student achievement, a much lower dropout rate, the opening of a gorgeous new elementary school and a high school for students interested in careers in health and medicine – This and so much more characterizes what made the school year a truly great one.

We didn't do this alone. Our great teachers, committed principals, dedicated Central Services team members, focused Board of Education, and evermore engaged parents – along with the most supportive community and business partners imaginable – were right there with us as we planned and executed instructional strategies that would best serve our students.

I highly encourage you to take a few moments to read about our progress. We couldn't be more excited about the great things happening in Durham Public Schools, nor could we be more appreciative of your commitment to our success!


Carl E. Harris, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Dropout numbers plummet in 2007-08

The number of Durham Public Schools students dropping out of school took a nosedive during the 2007-08 academic year, the system's largest decrease in seven years. DPS now has one of the top five three-year decreases in dropout counts among 115 school systems across the state of North Carolina.

The district's dropout rate was once again below the average dropout rate for the state. DPS officials credit the dramatic decrease to the ongoing middle and high school reform efforts to improve instruction and better engage students in their academic performance.

A total of 439 students in grades 9 through 12 left Durham Public Schools before graduating in 2007-08. That number represents a decrease of 69 students, or 13.58 percent, from the previous year's total of 508. The dropout rate fell to 4.19, down from 4.90 in 2006-07.

This places the DPS dropout rate below that of the state of North Carolina of 4.97 for the second year in a row.

DPS' dropout rate of 4.19 is now below or on par with neighboring and other large, urban districts across the state. The rate of DPS students dropping out fell below that of Orange County Schools (4.58), Johnston County Schools (4.92), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (5.91), Winston-Salem/Forsyth Schools (5.49), Buncombe County Schools (4.53), and Gaston County Schools (5.69). The DPS dropout rate is now merely two-hundredths of a point above that of the Wake County Public School System (4.17).

A number of ongoing initiatives, plus several new ones, helped in the successfully aggressive efforts to lower the number of dropouts, including:

- *A sharpened focus on dropout prevention.*
- *A dropout prevention grant from the North Carolina General Assembly which funds the Evening Academy at Southern High School and the Restoration Institute for Learners.*
- *The addition of several high school social workers.*
- *A refined dropout tracking system.*

Hillside New Tech Named National Learning Model

Hillside New Tech High School will be one of four innovative high schools in North Carolina to receive significant support to allow the school to showcase teaching and learning that ensures all students graduate ready for college, careers and life.

Hillside New Tech was selected by the North Carolina New Schools Project (NCNSP) and the University of North Carolina system to be part of the Learning

Laboratory Initiative, a \$2.5-million effort funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the development of innovative high schools that can demonstrate rigorous, highly effective instruction and deep student engagement to educators, university faculty and policymakers.

Hillside New Tech will be a national model of performance, hosting visits to the school by practitioners and others beginning in

2011. The four schools – which include two sites at which traditional high schools are being redesigned and two Learn and Earn early college high schools – were found to be the most ready to accelerate the innovative work they have begun and to hold great promise to grow into models for the state.

Hillside New Tech is among nine schools in North Carolina using the New Tech model based on one-to-one computer-to-student classrooms; a student-centered, project-based learning approach; and integration of course content and 21st century skills into a cohesive whole.

HillsideNT

NEW TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Green Becomes ‘Primary’ Color for District

The “primary” color around Durham Public Schools these days is green! There may be fewer dollars flowing but the school district is making key strides in promoting environmentally-friendly activities and efforts.

In 2008-09 more than 340 tons of recycled materials were collected, including 217 tons of cardboard, 18 tons of cans, 37 tons of paper and 69 tons of plastic. This was the first year the district has expanded recycling beyond cardboard. DPS expects to recycle even more in 2009-10 with the delivery of more than 2,000 recycle bins to all schools and district offices.

Since buildings represent close to 39 percent of the United States’ primary energy use, DPS also is committed to LEED certified standards. LEED certified buildings typically use resources more efficiently than conventional buildings. For two new schools that are in the planning stages, DPS is seeking LEED New Construction Gold certification, one of the highest LEED certifications available.

Other recycling initiatives include:

- Discarded electronic equipment and textbooks
- Textbooks and all test booklets
- Stocking at least 40 percent recycled items in Warehouse Services

LEED and Green Construction initiatives include:

- 40,000 gallon cistern is collecting rainwater at Holton
- Energy management control systems districtwide
- Photo cells on exterior lighting



Many Schools **Achieve ABCs Growth**

The 2008-09 school year was marked by notable progress in the ABCs of Accountability. Four schools in Durham Public Schools earned School of Distinction recognition. School of Distinction is the second highest rating a school can earn under the ABCs. In 2007-08, no schools had achieved this honor.

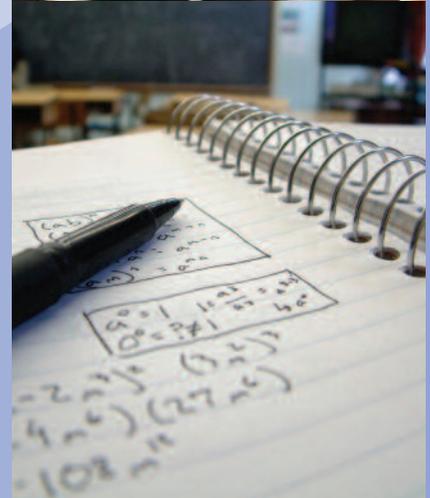
Five schools met High Growth, and a total of 35 of 51 schools measured, or two-thirds, met their overall expected growth target.

A total of 43 of 48 Durham schools had higher composite scores than the previous year.

For high schools, three reported High Growth. They are Durham School of the Arts, Jordan High School and Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College. Only one (DSA) recorded High Growth last year.

Highlights among the 2008-09 ABCs results include:

- Four Schools of Distinction – Little River, Mangum and Pearson Elementary Schools and Middle College High School at Durham Technical Community College. There were none in 2007-08.
- Thirteen elementary schools increased their overall composite by greater than 10 percentage points; one, Y.E. Smith Elementary, increased its overall composite by greater than 20 percentage points.
- Twenty-seven of 28 elementary schools increased their overall composites.
- Elementary schools making the High Growth standard were Mangum and R.N. Harris.
- Elementary schools making expected growth were Bethesda, Burton, Club Boulevard, Creekside, Easley, Eastway, Eno Valley, Glenn, Hillandale, Hope Valley, Lakewood, Little River, Parkwood, Powe, Pearson, C.C. Spaulding, W.G. Pearson, Y.E. Smith, and George Watts Elementary Schools.
- All middle schools increased their overall composite. Neal's overall composite increased by greater than 10 percentage points and W.G. Pearson Middle's overall composite increased by greater than 20.
- Half of middle schools (five of 10) reported either Expected or High Growth.
- Durham School of the Arts grades 6-8 reported High Growth. Middle schools making Expected Growth were Brogden, Carrington, Neal, and Rogers-Herr.
- Durham School of the Arts, Jordan High and Middle College High made High Growth.
- City of Medicine Academy, Clement Early College High, Hillside, Northern, Riverside and Southern made Expected Growth.
- Five schools were designated Low Performing, down from nine last year.



growth



County Commission Chair Michael Page greets a Spring Valley student on ribbon-cutting day.

Spring Valley Elementary Opens

It seems that it would be disruptive to move schools in the middle of the year but that was not the case when the new Spring Valley Elementary School opened after the winter break. Administrators credit the smooth move to the fact that Spring Valley students and teachers spent the first half of the year together in a wing at Oak Grove Elementary School, a neighbor to Spring Valley.

DPS's newest elementary school is located off Northern Durham Parkway adjacent to Brightleaf at the Park, a large master planned community. The \$15.4 million, 86,000-square-foot school was built with funding by the 2003 school bond referendum.

Durham Chosen for National Planning Grant

Durham was the only North Carolina community selected by the National Education Association to receive a planning grant that could lead to a five-year \$1.25 million grant to close achievement gaps. The Durham Association of Educators (DAE) and Durham Public Schools (DPS) are collaborating on the effort.

The planning process included a close analysis of the achievement levels in DPS and led to the conclusion that if the gap is to be reduced then efforts must be made to redefine the futures of African-American males. Increasing the achievement of African-American males is expected to increase the achievement of all DPS students.



The planning process includes soliciting input from students, educators, parents, business leaders, the faith community and others. A team from the district also will visit Milwaukee to learn how that community has made strides to close achievement gaps.

DPS and DAE have an opportunity to lead the nation with this effort. The achievement of African-American male students is a national tragedy – but there are few examples of systemic efforts to solve this crisis.

Data Dashboard

The purpose of the Data Dashboard is to help DPS attain and maintain excellence in all key management and operational areas (DPS Board Policy #1112.1). The dashboard consists of a limited number of instructional and stakeholder satisfaction indicators selected by the Board of Education.

	2007-08 Result	2008-09 Goal	2008-09 Result	Data Source
District Instructional Metrics				
Average Daily Attendance Rate	94.6%	94.9%	94.4%	DPI
8th Grade EOG Composite	45.5	51.0	55.6	DPI
5th Grade EOG Composite	49.3	54.4	60.0	DPI
3rd Grade EOG Composite	50.6	55.5	59.1	DPI
Overall District ABCs Growth Target Met	Met	Meets	Met	DPI
Percent of all Schools' AYP Goals Met	69.6%	72.6%	89.8%	DPI
EOC Composite Score	53.0	57.7	56.2	DPI
SAT Ratio of DPS to National Average Score	.953	.958	.950	CB*
Cohort Graduation Rate	63.0%	64.8%	64.0%	DPI
District AP Participation (# of students)	1304	1327	1323	CB*
Percent of AIG Students	15.2%	16.5%	17.7%	NC WISE
District VoCATS Performance Composite	57.1	61.4	69.0	DPI
District Stakeholder Satisfaction Metric				
District Average for Teacher Working Conditions Survey (5 pt. Likert Scale)	3.34	3.38	3.30	DPI
District Gallup Student Survey on Student Engagement (Likert Scale)	n/a	n/a	3.97	GSS **
Percent of Parents Reflecting Positive Image of DPS on Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau Survey (DCVB)	72.6%	73.3%	n/a	DCVB

DPI is NC Department of Public Instruction

* CB is College Board

** GSS is Gallup Student Survey

■ performance increased from previous year and DPS met or exceeded district goal

■ performance fell from previous year and DPS did not meet district goal

■ performance increased from previous year, but DPS did not meet district goal

■ baseline data established in 2008-09

Provided by Research, Development and Accountability.

For more information on the data, please see the Data Dashboard Report online at www.dpsnc.net/datadashboard



Students and Community Leave Their Mark: BookMark

The last days of school put smiles on the faces of some DPS elementary students. They were happy because through the generosity of students and community members, they were given books to enjoy over the summer.

DPS started the Leave Your Mark: BookMark project to provide a way for high school students and community members to donate new and gently used books to be given to students to take home. A number of high school student councils took on the project and students donated hundreds of books.

Local bookstores The Regulator and Book Warehouse also got into the act serving as collection points for the drive. Area businesses also answered the call with Duke Energy employees setting a wonderful example for others to follow. In addition to collecting books, Duke Energy employees also volunteered to help distribute the books at Burton and Merrick-Moore elementary schools.

DPS hopes to expand the program in 2009-10 to reach more students.

Read Seed, a local nonprofit, also donated books to elementary students at three schools.

DPS wants every student to have books in the home to enjoy. Learn more about BookMark online at www.dpsnc.net/bookmarkproject

Statistics for 2008-09

Schools

Elementary	29
Middle	9
Secondary	1
High	11
Alternative	1
Hospital	1
TOTAL	52

Enrollment

Pre-K	349
Grades K-5	15,911
Grades 6-8	5,757
Grades 6-12	1,737
Grades 9-12	9,094
TOTAL	32,848

Seventh largest school district in North Carolina

Demographics

African-American	53.4%
White	21.9%
Hispanic	18.1%
Multi-Racial	3.9%
Asian	2.6%
Other	<0.1%

Durham Public Schools

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Projected Revenue FY 2009-10

	Initial Budget Resolution FY 2009-10	% of Total
State Appropriation	\$163,251,744	36.1%
Local Current Expense	106,967,663	23.7%
Federal Sources	28,289,590	6.3%
Federal Stimulus (Title I & IDEA)	15,250,682	3.4%
Federal Stabilization	8,000,000	1.8%
Local Bond Proceeds	103,969,449	23.0%
State Capital (PSBCF)	1,879,354	0.4%
Capital Outlay & Special Appropriations	3,721,722	0.8%
Child Nutrition	13,601,692	3.0%
Grant Revenues	3,397,030	0.8%
Community Education	3,503,291	0.8%
Total All Funds	\$451,832,217	100.0%

Use of Local Funds

	Anticipated Expenses 2009-2010	% of Total Local
	(millions of dollars)	
Local Salaries & Benefits		
Instructional Services	\$39.7	37.1%
Pupil Support (guidance, media, nurse)	7.7	7.2%
Instructional Supplies and Materials	4.3	4.0%
Career and Technical Education	1.1	1.0%
Magnet/Choice Programs	0.9	0.8%
Remediation/Alternative Programs	1.0	1.0%
Operational Costs	36.2	33.8%
Transportation	4.4	4.1%
Charter Schools	8.9	8.3%
Central Services	2.8	2.7%
Total Local Current Exp	\$107.0	100.0%
Capital Outlay	2.3	
Total Local Current Expenses & Capital	\$109.3	