

DEPARTMENTAL INTERNET AND INTRANET WEB SITES: AN EVOLVING PROCESS

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WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research/

EVALUATION AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT INTERNET AND INTRANET WEB SITES:

BACKGROUND

The Evaluation and Research (E&R) departmental Internet and Intranet Web sites were developed to support the Wake County Public Schools (WCPSS) and the E&R mission statements.

WCPSS MISSION

The Wake County Public School System will educate each student to be a responsible and productive citizen who can effectively manage future challenges.

Over the years, we have continued to redesign our Internet and Intranet Web sites in order to:

- Broaden report dissemination in and outside WCPSS,
- Inform and educate our constituents,
- Expedite dissemination of reports,
- Provide general information about the department, and
- Archive departmental reports.

E&R MISSION

The mission of the Evaluation and Research Department is to improve the effectiveness of WCPSS for all students by:

- Providing objective, accurate, and timely information on system, school, and program outcomes, management practices, cost effectiveness, and compliance.
- Collaborating with others to ensure high-quality data collection, interpretation, and data-based decision making; and
- Ensuring grant-based programs are developed, implemented, and managed in ways consistent with district priorities, research findings, and applicable regulations.

Internet Site

The design and construction of the E&R departmental Web site began in the late 1990s and improvements continue to be implemented. On the *main* system web page, we requested a navigation link titled "Student Results" which leads to the E&R Departmental Web page. A Student Results navigation link (rather than Evaluation and Research Department) was chosen to ensure parents, teachers, students, and the community as a whole, are able to locate our reports, information, and or data on students.

The main E&R Intranet Web page is easy to navigate, with information grouped by interest. Links from this page are grouped as:

- Reports by Topic and by Date
- Information for Parents (Testing Calendars, Frequently Asked Questions, school report cards, etc)
- Other information (Research in WCPSS, related links, contact E&R)

In addition, for ease of navigation between our departmental Internet and Intranet sites, we recently added a link from the Internet page to the Intranet pages. This link is only visible to staff when they log into a computer within the WCPSS firewall.

Intranet Site

With the WCPSS and the E&R missions in mind, the E&R Intranet Web site (for staff only) was completely redesigned in 2005 to provide WCPSS staff:

- Faster and broader dissemination of internal reports,
- Migration to electronic information instead of paper copies (faster)
- Internal system surveys
- Links to pertinent internal and external Web sites, and
- Archives of reports and information of interest to WCPSS staff.

INTERNET DESIGN

From the WCPSS main site, two prominent links guide visitors to the E&R Internet page: directly through "Student Results" and under "Departments"

The E&R Web site was designed to be user friendly to accommodate our diverse internal and external audiences. We develop and maintain our departmental pages which speeds up changes and posting and therefore is less error prone.

Main E&R Page

For ease of navigation, the E&R departmental main page is divided into 3 columns (see attachment 1):

Reports	Information for Parents	Other Information
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1. Reports Column

- **Reports by Topic:**
This link is useful to viewers who already know the category they are seeking or who need to view all the reports on a particular topic. The link connects to a page with all E&R reports divided into four main categories. (Attachment 2)

The four sub-categories under Reports by Topic follow. (Each category has an "Other Reports" link for miscellaneous reports under the category.)

Survey Results: All reports with district-wide survey results are on a page where they can be viewed quickly and efficiently by year of survey.

Test Results: All test results reports (End of Course, End of Grade, SAT, ITBS, etc). Viewers can compare several years at the same time.

Program Evaluations: Results of evaluations of WCPSS programs, e.g. Accelerated Learning Program (ALP), Class Size Reduction, and Safe Schools/Healthy Students.

Policy Evaluations/Demographic Reports/Other Reports:

This category was selected to encompass all reports evaluating Federal or State programs, e.g., grants applications, No Child Left Behind and other reports. Short demographic reports of interest to the community are also included here.

- **Reports by Date:**
This link contains all E&R reports and is mainly of help to regular visitors to our Web site seeking reports recently produced by the department. Reports are posted by date produced with the most recent report at the top. Viewers looking for reports who are not sure of the category or report name also benefit from this link. (Attachment 3)

2. Information for Parents Column

- **Testing Calendars:**
This link helps our visitors to check timing of different tests referred to in our reports. It is also a useful link for students and parents for test planning purposes.
- **School Performance:**
Due to the elimination of our popular School Profiles, we added a link to the School Report Cards produced by NC Department of Public Instruction. A page with links to where the remainder of the school profile information can be found was added under "School Performance."

3. Other Information

- Helpful links on "how to" and E&R email contact are included here. We also have a page on award winning reports, including AERA awards.

Other Features: Descriptions of each office within the department help distinguish the functions of each section for our readers. A Frequently Asked Questions link and a link to our departmental mission are also prominently displayed.

INTRANET DESIGN

The departmental Intranet pages were completely redesigned in 2005. For E&R to communicate effectively it was deemed important to prominently display a description of responsibilities for each team within the department. For ease of navigation and to maintain uniformity, much of the layout matches the easy to navigate Internet layout.

Main E&R Intranet (Employees only) Page

From the main WCPSS Intranet page the E&R Intranet Web site can be reached through the "Departments" tab. The departmental Intranet page has short descriptions of each team within the department. WCPSS employees with questions are able to locate the team likely to answer their questions by going through the short descriptions (which have links to more broad

descriptions). The Intranet main page also has a left side navigation bar with links divided into three main categories (see attachment 4):

Main
Resources
Calendars

1. Main Column

In this column, we have links to both E&R *internal* reports by date and by topic (Intranet) and links to *external* reports (Internet). This helps employees to navigate from Intranet and Internet and view various reports with ease.

2. Resources Column

Frequently requested information/links are provided here. Links are also provided to resources maintained by other departments. The "Other Research Sites" link leads to important sources of research findings. WCPSS administrators and teachers use this information to help support school improvement and other efforts to improve instruction and achievement. A link to the archives of WCPSS School Profiles from 1998 - 2003 was added as a source of longitudinal data on schools.

3. Calendars Column

The frequently visited links, school calendars and test calendars are included for students and employees.

CONCLUSION

The E&R departmental Internet and Intranet Web sites are continuously improved to ensure their effectiveness for system customers. Currently the department is working with schools to incorporate the E&R Internet link on individual schools' Web sites. The link will provide parents/community an additional method of accessing our pages. We are also planning to include on the department's home page a list of recent reports and reports expected shortly.

Every year, the system's web statistics record our department's web pages among the top most requested/visited pages in the system (see attachment 5). Our information is crucial to effectively communicate with central office personnel, school administrators, and in the case of the Internet, the public at large. Our department produces many informative reports, reports on program evaluations, and data that is ultimately used by decision-makers to improve the effectiveness of WCPSS for all students. We recognize that parents and the community are also greatly involved in students' learning. Providing the community with timely and useful information not only benefits them, but all stake holders.

December 2005

ATTACHMENT 2 REPORTS BY TOPIC

index for reports by topic - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Wake County Public Schools

Address: <http://www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research/reports/index.html>

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Schools Jobs Parents FAQs

WCPSS Home >> E&R Home

Evaluation and Research

Published Reports by Topic

Survey Results	Test Results	Policy Evaluations/ Demographic/Other Reports	Program Evaluations
General Information	End-of-Course	ABCs	Instructional Programs Reports on evaluations of instructional programs such as Project Achieve, ALP, and Fast ForWord.
Parent	End-of-Grade	Goal 2008	Student Support Beyond Instruction Reports on evaluations of student services such as Partnership for Educational Success etc.
Student	Writing	No Child Left Behind/AYP	Grant-Funded Projects Evaluations of grants such as Magnet Schools, Title VI, and Safe Schools Healthy Students.
Staff	SAT	Promotion / Intervention	
Graduate Intentions	AP	Dropouts/Graduation Rates	
Other Surveys	ITBS	Achievement Gaps	
	K-5	School Performance	
	Computer Skills		

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ATTACHMENT 3 REPORTS BY DATE

WCPSS: Department of Evaluation and Research-Reports by Date - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Wake County Public School

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites

Address <http://www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research/reports/index-date.html> Go Links

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Schools Jobs Parents FAQs

WCPSS Home >> E&R Home

Evaluation and Research

Evaluation & Research Reports by Date

[1993](#) | [1999](#) | [2000](#) | [2001](#) | [2002](#) | [2003](#) | [2004](#) | [2005](#)

To read our reports, you'll need the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

Note: Clicking on a report opens a new window. Close or minimize the new window to return.

Date	Title
2005 Reports	
December 2005	WCPSS Outcomes Summary for 2004-05 with an Emphasis on Achievement Gap Status (503 KB Acrobat file)
December 2005	Advanced Placement Course-Taking, Exam Participation, and Exam Results: 2004-05 (379 KB Acrobat file)
December 2005	Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Results: 2004-05 (270 KB Acrobat file)
December 2005	End-of-Course Multiple-Choice Test Results for 2004-05 (310 KB Acrobat file)
December 2005	End-of-Grade Multiple Choice Test Results, 2004-05 (560 KB Acrobat file)
December 2005	Graduation Rates of the 1998-99 9th-Grade Cohort: Wake County Public School System (266 KB Acrobat file)
November 2005	WCPSS K-5 Assessment Results: 2004-05 (264 KB Acrobat file)
October 2005	Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Results: 2004-05 (245 KB Acrobat file)

Done Local intranet

start AERA 06 Inter and I... printscreens.doc - Mi... WCPSS: Department ... aera2006 11:55 AM

ATTACHMENT 4 E&R INTRANET MAIN PAGE

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the WCPSS Intranet - Evaluation and Research main page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www2.wcpss.net/departments/e-and-r/>. The page header includes the Wake County Public School System logo and a navigation menu with links for Business Applications, Departments, Goal 2008, Schools, and WCPSS Internet. The main content area is titled "INTRANET Evaluation and Research" and features a search bar, a date display for Tuesday, January 24, 2006, and a search button labeled "Go".

The page content is organized into several sections:

- Overview:** The mission of the Evaluation and Research Department is to improve the effectiveness of WCPSS for all students by:
 - ▶ Providing objective, accurate, and timely information on system, school, and program outcomes, management practices, cost effectiveness, and compliance;
 - ▶ Collaborating with others to ensure high-quality data collection, interpretation, and data-based decision making; and
 - ▶ Ensuring grant-based programs are developed, implemented, and managed in ways consistent with district priorities, research findings, and applicable regulations.
- Administration:** The office of the assistant superintendent provides leadership to the Evaluation and Research Department. The assistant superintendent coordinates the development and implementation of evaluation and assessment procedures and provides information to policy-makers.
- Grants Administration & Compliance Reporting:** The [Grants office](#) helps WCPSS employees identify, prepare, and submit applications for grant programs designed to benefit WCPSS teacher and/or student groups.
- Program Accountability:** The [Program Accountability](#) team promotes continuous improvement and accountability primarily through evaluations of WCPSS programs and policies, and summarization of local K-5 assessment results.
- School Accountability:** [School Accountability](#) staff provide objective, accurate and timely analysis of system and state mandated test results. The team interprets

The left sidebar contains navigation menus for Main, Resources, and Calendars. The Main menu includes links to Home, Internal Reports by Date, Internal Reports by Topic, and Reports (for System & Public). The Resources menu includes links to DPI School Report Cards, FAQs, Helpful Links, Other Research Sites, QuickPlace (With Password), QuickPlace (No Password), School Profiles (Archives), and Staff Directory. The Calendars menu includes a link to Instructional Calendars.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications (AERA 06 Inter and I..., printscreens.doc - Mi..., aera2006, WCPSS Intranet - Ev...), and the system clock displaying 12:45 PM.

ATTACHMENT 5 8 DAY PERIOD DOWNLOADS

