



**Dr. Ed Davis – Superintendent**

**Board of Education**

L. Dean Arp, Jr. – Chairman  
John Collins - Vice Chairman  
John Crowder  
Carolyn J. Lowder  
Laura Minsk  
Kimberly Morrison-Hansley  
John Parker  
David Scholl  
Richard Weiner

October 28, 2010

Dear Parents,

As the UCPS Superintendent, I continue to be impressed with the outstanding instruction I observe taking place in our schools on a daily basis. I am also impressed with the safe and orderly climate that, without exception, exists in each of our fifty-three schools and with the creativity and can-do attitude of our employees in their quest to accomplish the UCPS mission of “Preparing All Students to Succeed.”

As the sixth largest school system in North Carolina, we continue to grow, but at a slower rate than in past years. Over the past five years, our student enrollment has increased by almost 25 percent, or more than 5,300 students, bringing our total to almost 40,000 students. During this five-year period, we opened thirteen new schools.

Meeting the needs of students in our high priority schools, those with high numbers of socio-economically disadvantaged students continues to be a challenge. These students require more resources and are more at risk of failure than other students. Efforts to further reduce class sizes and provide instructional program-enhancing personnel for these schools are underway. Greater emphasis is being placed on diversity awareness, early intervention, and parent, business and community involvement in the high priority schools.

Our two-year trend in test score performance shows that our percentage of students on grade level continues to improve. The percentage of students in our district scoring at or above grade level in reading and math for grades 3-8 is higher than the number doing so at the state level. Three-year trend information is available on the school-level report card.

In Union County Public Schools we make every effort to test each student. Data is disaggregated by gender, race, ethnicity, disability status, English proficiency and socioeconomic status for the District and each school. This data is available on the NC Report Card Site. The number of students not tested by each subgroup is less than five percent for the District and each school.

We are pleased that 5 of our 8 Title I schools made AYP for the 2009-2010 school year. East Elementary and Marshville Elementary exited school improvement status in all areas. Walter Bickett Elementary exited school improvement status in reading, but failed to make AYP in math. Walter Bickett Elementary must make AYP in math for the 2010-2011 school year in order to not enter school improvement status.

Benton Heights also made AYP for the 2009-2010 school year and must make AYP for the 2010-2011 school year to exit school improvement status. Students at Benton Heights were given the option to transfer to Waxhaw Elementary or Western Union Elementary, or remain at Benton Heights and receive free after school tutoring for eligible students.

UCPS continues to be a leader in offering teachers high quality professional learning opportunities. The number of teachers participating in high quality professional learning continues to increase with the majority of our schools having 100 percent participation. A listing of all schools and the percentage of teachers involved in high quality professional learning is available on the Federal Programs website.

The goal of UCPS is to have 100 percent highly qualified teachers. The percentage of highly qualified teachers is 98.61 percent for the current school year. UCPS is reviewing the credentials of those teachers not considered highly qualified. The Human Resources division is working with the Instructional Directors of UCPS to develop appropriate staff development opportunities for teachers not considered highly qualified.

I am proud that the 2009-10 tests scores show that UCPS continues to be a top-performing school district. We had 86 percent of our schools make the top three highest state tests score designations, School of Excellence (42%), School of Distinction (26%) and/or School of Progress (18%). I am also proud to report that results of the No Child Left Behind federal accountability requirements show UCPS has a higher percentage of its schools meeting 100 percent of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals than any of the fifteen largest school systems in the state.

I want to commend the 2010 graduating seniors whose SAT scores exceeded the state and national averages and were awarded over \$48.5 million in scholarships.

My pledge to the community is to provide a safe and orderly environment filled with high quality instruction for all of our students. My challenge to the community is to be supportive of our schools and to become involved in the education of our students. Together, we can accomplish the UCPS mission of “Preparing All Students to Succeed.”

Sincerely,

Dr. Ed Davis  
Superintendent

## Growing Possibilities...