



# NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### McGee's Crossroads Middle School



#### Designated in 2011

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• Website

<http://www.johnston.k12.nc.us/education/school/school.php?sectiondetailid=6172&sectionid=3>

### 2010-11 School Statistics

(Source: 2010 NC School Report Card.)

Community: Fringe of small town

Enrollment: 761

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: Traditional

#### Student Demographics

74% White

10% African American

10% Hispanic

1% Native American

34% Free/Reduced Lunch

3% English Learners

2008 AYP: High Growth, School of Progress  
Met 27 of 29 performance targets

2009 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction  
Met 25 of 25 performance targets

2010 AYP: High Growth, School of Distinction  
Met 25 of 25 performance targets

(Visit <http://www.ncreportcards.org> to view this school's data for prior years.)

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

McGee's Crossroads Middle School is located in eastern North Carolina and is southeast of Raleigh, near the town of Benson. The school opened in 2003 and is on the same campus as McGee's Crossroads Elementary School. The school has a number of outstanding programs and practices.

### Academic Excellence

- AIG certification is held by a large number of staff; earning this certification was encouraged and supported by principal
- Staff regularly share good practices at staff meetings
- Flexible groupings of students occur regularly, and there is a willingness to flex times and groups within teams
- Curriculum assistance and Project Pass are effectively utilized
- Reading specialist was hired to improve reading achievement
- PLCs bridge the analysis of test data and staff support, implementation of PLCs was effectively undertaken
- RTI tiers, AVID, inclusion classes, and other grouping of students meets needs while facilitating rigorous learning experiences

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## **Developmental Responsiveness**

- The school has clubs that address positive gender specific expectations and behaviors (Ladies of Distinction)
- Project Pass addresses dropout prevention issues
- Curriculum and Reading Assistance is widely available and used
- Community nights – the school works with local businesses to do fund raisers
- Wide use of inclusion
- Students have a voice in school decisions that impact their daily lives
- Algebra classes as well as other higher level classes divided among all teams to dispel the idea of "the good team" or "the dumb team"

## **Social Equity**

- Opportunities for all students – something is in place that addresses all types of learners
- Band students donate instruments after they have aged out of them
- Appreciation for their own and each other's cultures through projects, videos; evaluation of their economic perspective as well as from schools in Kenya
- Student surveys yield information that the staff analyzes and uses to make changes
- Service programs are strong – boxes for Peace Corps- More at 4
- Club Day – Board game Club (something for everybody)
- Algebra determination is not just based on test scores. The school has increased number of classes to accommodate increased numbers of qualifying students

## **Organizational Support**

- School has a shared vision about where it wants to go and be in 5 years
- Principal holds the vision together, but also allows teachers to make decisions and to help implement plans
- Professional development is strong. The principal/staff recognize a need and specifically address it with focused staff development
- School leadership fosters and supports collaboration. One example is their work with Campbell University
- PTA very active (give each staff member \$125 for supplies at beginning of each year)
- Honor Roll – As and Bs – and On a Roll – As, Bs, Cs, and NBA ( Never Been Absent) All Stars – many ways for students to be recognized