



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2010

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A Call for Education Reform in Eastern Wake County

Knightdale, NC –In response to the **HIGHEST** suspension rate and the second **LOWEST** graduation rate in Wake County Public Schools (WCPSS), Track My Steps (TMS) declared a Call for Education Reform. On Thursday, October 28th at East Regional Library a Knightdale elected official, a Wake County Commissioner, business leaders, representatives from advocacy groups, parents, and concerned citizens came together and signed a commitment for a Race to 100 Campaign in Eastern Wake County. The goal of setting high expectations for all students, closing achievement gaps, working to obtain a graduation rate of 100 percent by 2014, and most importantly of making sure high school graduates are college/university or workforce ready was the topics of discussion.

The steps to transform schools are: (1) Contact the TMS student/parent hotline or visit TMS website for educational needs, (2) Offer workshops to students and parents concerning their rights, (3) Provide low cost to no cost tutoring that focuses on the NC Standard Course of Study, (4) Correspond with WCPSS Curriculum Management and Resource Development to ensure resources are available, (5) Send Advocacy Representatives from TMS to speak directly to Principals with concerns, suggestions, and positive feedback gathered from TMS supporters, (6) Offer workshops to teachers and administrators. (7) Inform elected officials of trends, challenges, and solutions to change or amend policies for students.

TMS is dedicated to closing achievement gaps one county at a time. We have begun in Wake County, and currently setting up facilities in Durham and Wilson Counties. Track My Steps is currently offering two ongoing workshops across counties that empower students and parents of their rights and resources within their local, state, and national education agencies. Education Policy Fellow, Tyler Wittenberg from NC Justice Center discussed Personal Education Plans (PEP) that is mandated by the state if students are failing or at risk for failing. Education Attorney Jason Langberg of Advocates for Children's Services shared student's rights and due process concerning suspensions. "This is a time for an educational movement like we have never seen before." said Toshiba Rice, President of Track My Steps. Rice says, "Now –more than ever Eastern Wake must advocate for our children and provide more guidance to the students of Eastern Wake County."

Individuals and groups who wish to join Track My Steps or view upcoming workshops can do so by visiting www.trackmysteps.org.

Track My Steps is a non-profit revolutionary tutorial curriculum that is dedicated to closing academic achievements gaps one county at a time. We promote college/university or workforce readiness for North Carolina students.

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