

# Great Ideas for Great Public Schools

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Survey findings help improve teaching and learning

The **North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions Survey**, conducted for the fifth time in 2010, is the product of a partnership among the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission, the North Carolina State Board of Education, and the North Carolina Association of Educators. Survey findings are used to improve teaching and learning conditions in North Carolina schools and districts, which in turn helps the state recruit and retain accomplished educators. The survey is based on the premise that good working conditions reduce turnover and contribute to higher student achievement. North Carolina's first statewide survey, conducted in 2002, was modeled after an earlier survey developed by the Forsyth County Association of Educators and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education. The statewide survey is repeated every two years; local surveys are conducted in "off" years.

#### 2010 results in Forsyth County

- 85 percent of educators agreed that their school is a good place to work and learn—results were similar across the state.
- 77 percent indicated that administrators consistently support teachers, a 6-point increase over 2008.
- 71 percent reported that teachers have time to collaborate with colleagues, a 10-point increase over 2008.
- 79 percent agreed that teachers are relied upon to make decisions about educational issues—a 19-point increase over 2008.
- 70 percent of teachers agreed that parents are influential decision makers—statewide, 72 percent of teachers said the same.

#### Use of survey data in Forsyth County

- Initiating and supporting projects—for example, creation of a district-wide code of conduct
- Offering staff development programs for administrators and teachers
- Evaluating principals

#### Use of survey data at the state level

- Guiding school improvement teams, which are central to reform efforts
- Rewriting principal standards to include teacher recruitment and retention
- Sharing findings, survey-driven changes, and "best practices"

#### For more information:

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Complete survey results: [www.ncteachingconditions.org](http://www.ncteachingconditions.org)



*Great Public Schools for Every Student*