The Cost of a High School Diploma in North Carolina's Ten Largest LEAs
Does Academic Performance Justify Public Spending?

LEA	State		Cabarrus		Charlotte-Mecklenburg		Cumberland		Durham		Forsythe		Gaston		Guilford		Johnston		Union		Wake	
Cost of H.S. Diploma	$122,478		$116,724		$152,531		$125,862		$197,648		$144,603		$120,290		$127,779		$120,667		$110,262		$122,178	
Year	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008	2005	2008
Grad. Rate	68.1	71.7	71.6	74.7	74.6	66.1	64.7	73.2	68.8	64	73.7	72.7	68.1	70	63.5	79.9	74.5	72.9	71.3	80.7	82.6	78.4
EOG. Reading	84.9	67.6	88.8	72.2	83	67.3	83.8	65	77.2	52.9	81.7	64.5	84.8	66	84.1	65.6	87.3	73.9	88.8	77.8	89.8	73.4
EOG Math	63.4	80	70.6	82	64.3	78.6	55.7	73.2	53.1	66.3	61.9	78	61.7	77	61.6	80	65.7	87	74.1	89.4	73.8	83.4
EOC English	82.8	73.8	86.3	78	79.8	76.6	82.2	73.7	76.1	61.3	81.4	70.9	79.1	71.5	78.7	68.9	87.6	81	89.1	81.5	87.2	80.7
EOC Geometry	68.8	73.3	82.9	85	55.5	73	58.6	63.1	48.8	61.2	61	65.2	67.8	73.5	62.9	66	81.4	78.6	60.5	80.5	79.9	81
EOC History	56.8	71.2	66.9	79.2	60.2	78.9	51.7	68.6	55.4	63.8	56.6	65.2	55.7	77.7	57.2	67.8	58.4	71.9	64.9	78.2	69.6	77.6
SAT Part. Rate	1008 71%	1006 63%	1020 64%	1018 55%	1008 69%	1007 61%	955 54%	949 51%	1005 70%	965 63%	1015 66%	1002 58%	989 51%	967 50%	994 70%	988 59%	1033 50%	1016 42%	1035 66%	1028 64%	1075 79%	1073 67%
AYP # Met Goals	65/82	73/82	73/82	66/72	57/76	59/76	65/78	74/82	52/73	56/74	57/74	68/76	57/70	58/66	69/76	71/76	58/66	64/70	56/64	64/71	71/76	69/76
Trends																						
#UP	5		5		4		5		4		4		5		5		3		5		3	
#Down		3		3		4		3		4		4		3		3		5		3		5

Notes: State figure represents median of ten largest LEAs enroll about 40 percent of North Carolina's 1.4 million K-12 students. Performance data is statewide. All costs reflect inflation-adjusted figures. Years for analysis include: 2005-06 and 2008-09. Graduation rate is four-year graduation rate.EOG math test was re-centered in 2005. EOG reading test was re-centered in 2006.Part. Rate reflects the percentage of high school seniors who too SAT exam. AYP reflects the targets/goals set by schools and districts to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind Legislation. # UP Trends reflect the number of the eight tests listed that showed improvement in the four year period. #Down reflect the number of the eight tests listed that fail to show improvement.