

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 29, 2004 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, November 29, 2004, at 6:00 PM for dinner and 7:00 PM for the meeting, in the Auditorium of the Agricultural Building at 403 Old Creek Road, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

Eugene James, Chairman
Mark Owens, Jr., Vice Chairman
John Minges, Commissioner
Jimmy Garris, Commissioner
Beth Ward, Commissioner
Glenn Bowen, Commissioner
Tom Coulson, Commissioner
David Hammond, Commissioner
Randy Royal, Commissioner

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
John Bulow, Deputy County Manager
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager
Loretta Lewellyn, Budget Administrator
Thomas Lynch, Public Information Officer

Board of Education Members Present:

Jill Camnitz, Chairman
Michael Dixon, Vice Chairman
Barbara Owens, Board member
Dick Tolmie, Board member
Sidney Scott, Board member
Betsy Leech, Board member
Mary Grace Bright, Board member
Delano Wilson, Board member

Members Absent:

Walter Gaskins, Board member
Michael Barnette, Board member
Ralph Love, Board member
Don Carson, Board member

Call to Order

Eugene James called the Board of County Commissioners meeting to order.
Jill Camnitz called the Board of Education meeting to order.

Mark Owens brought greetings to the board members and citizens that were present. He expressed appreciation to those who served on the Education Compact II Committee. He thanked them for the time they invested to arrive at the conclusion they were presenting to both boards at this meeting.

Mary Grace Bright led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Education Compact Status Report

Dr. Mary Williamson provided the following power point presentation on the 2003-2004 school year achievements.



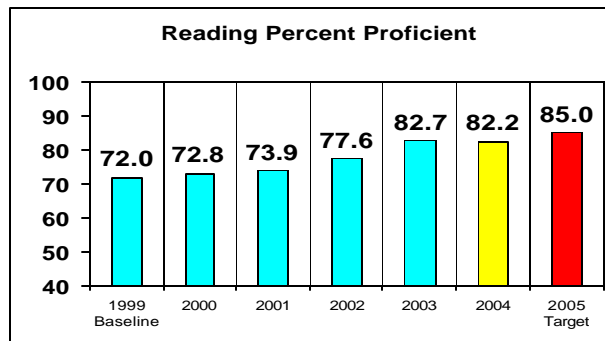
The Education Compact Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 1: End-of-Grade Reading

Measurement: By June 2005, 85.0% of students in grades 3-8 will score at or above Level III on the End-of-Grade Reading Test.



Dr. Williamson stated that the End-of Grade Reading Test Indicator 1 showed a slight decrease but was still on an upward trend.



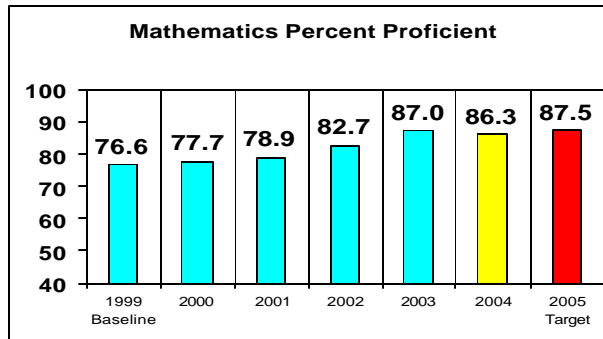
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 1: End-of-Grade Mathematics

Measurement: By June 2005, 87.5% of students in grades 3-8 will score at or above Level III on the End-of-Grade Mathematics Test.



Dr. Williamson noted that the End-of-Grade Mathematics was on an upward trend. She noted that the Writing at Grade 7 indicator was on hold because the test was being changed. There would be a new scoring method for year 2005.



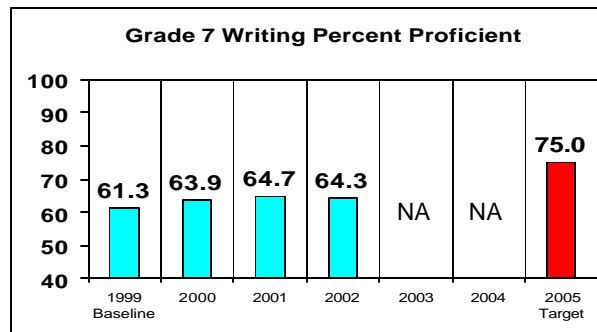
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 2: Writing at Grade 7

Measurement: By June 2005, 75.0% of students in grade 7 will score 2.5 or higher on the Grade 7 Writing Test.





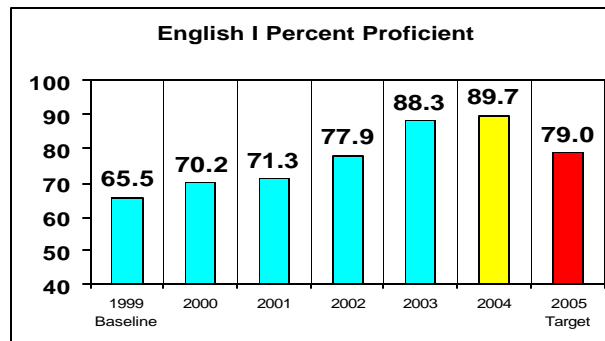
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course English I

Measurement: By June 2005, 79.0% of students taking English I will score at or above Level III on the English I End-of-Course Test.



Dr. Williamson noted that they had used compact funds to reduce class size in English I. She stated that all 9th graders take this test. She said this End-of-Course test does not reflect improvement in the same students because it is given to different groups of 9th grade students each year. Dr. Williamson said the writing test was being changed.



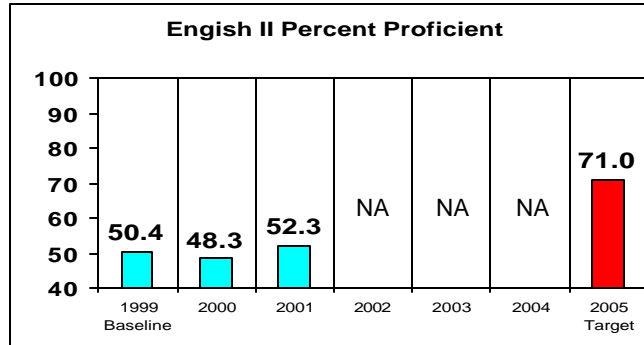
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 4: English II Writing

Measurement:
By June 2005,
71.0% of
students
taking English
II will score
2.5 or higher
on the English
II Writing Test.



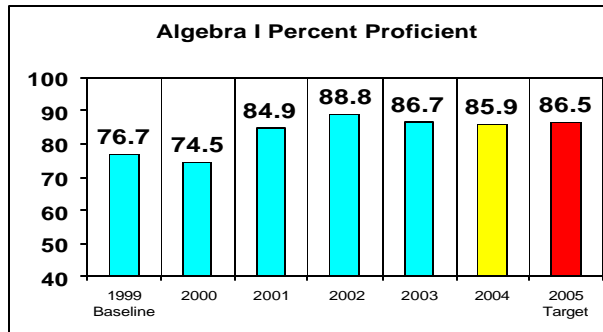
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Algebra I

Measurement: By
June 2005, 86.5%
of students taking
Algebra I will
score at or above
Level III on the
Algebra I End-of-
Course Test.



Dr. Williamson reported the slight dip in the Algebra I indicator. She said that the number of students taking the test had increased.



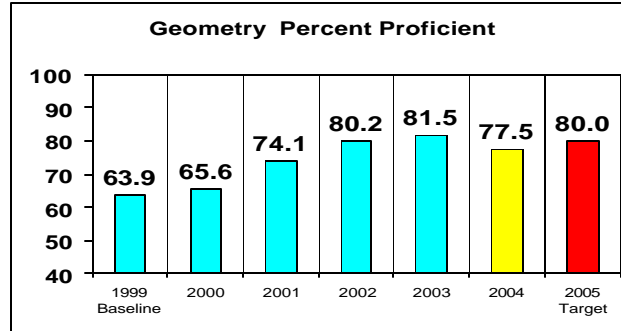
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Geometry

Measurement: By June 2005, 80.0% of students taking Geometry will score at or above Level III on the Geometry End-of-Course Test.



Dr. Williamson stated that Geometry and Algebra II had both exceeded their targets.



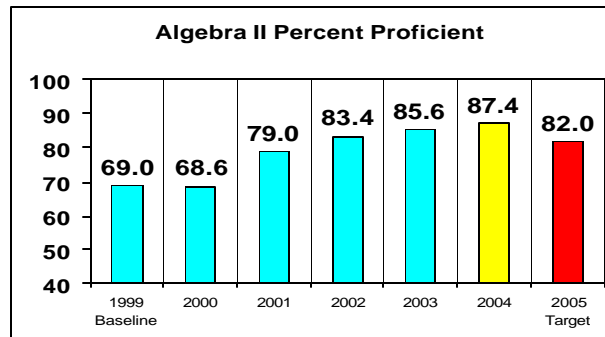
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Algebra II

Measurement: By June 2005, 82.0% of students taking Algebra II will score at or above Level III on the Algebra II End-of-Course Test.





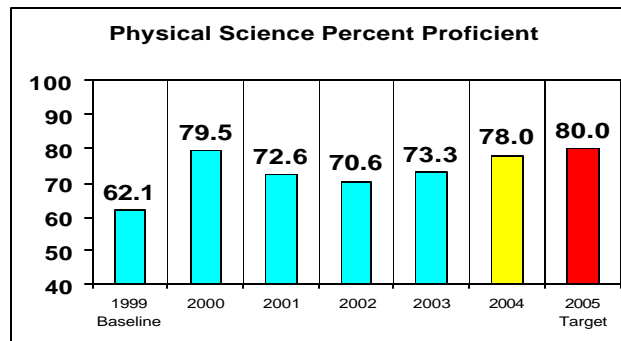
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Physical Science

Measurement: By June 2005, 80.0% of students taking Physical Science will score at or above Level III on the Physical Science End-of-Course Test.



Dr. Williamson noted that Physical Science had an increase, whereas Biology had a slight decrease. However, she noted that all students have to take Biology but Physics is optional and the number of students being tested fluctuates.



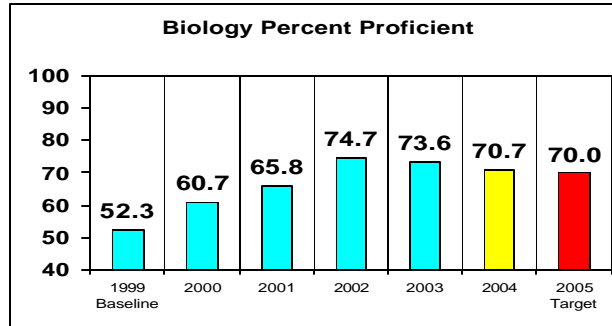
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Biology

Measurement: By June 2005, 70.0% of students taking Biology will score at or above Level III on the Biology End-of-Course Test.



Dr. Williamson stated there was an increase in the scores for Chemistry.



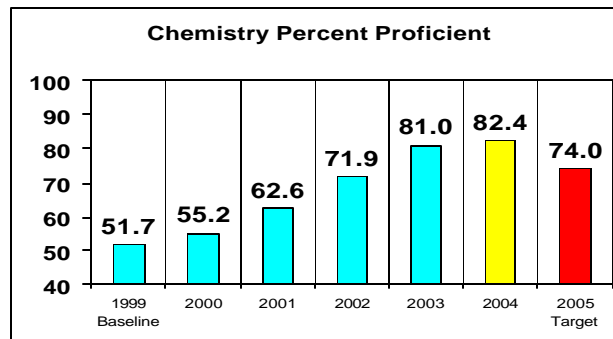
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Chemistry

Measurement: By June 2005, 74.0% of students taking Chemistry will score at or above Level III on the Chemistry End-of-Course Test.





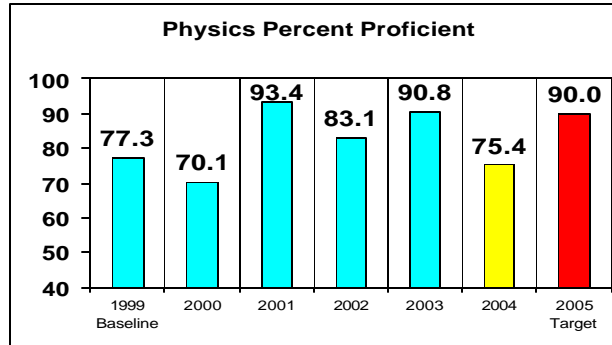
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course Physics

Measurement: By June 2005, 90.0% of students taking Physics will score at or above Level III on the Physics End-of-Course Test.



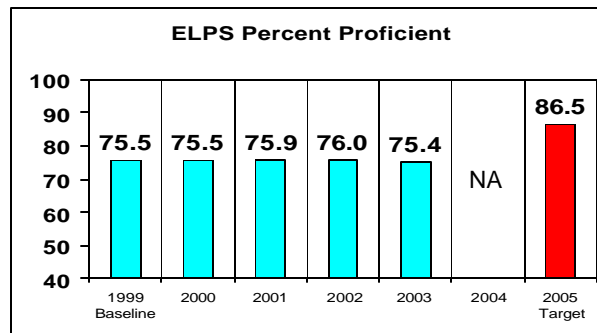
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 3: End-of-Course ELPS

Measurement: By June 2005, 86.5% of students taking ELPS will score at or above Level III on the ELPS End-of-Course Test.



Dr. Williamson said the ELPS was not tested this year because the test is being changed as well as the US History test.

Dr. Williamson noted that the overall mean score for all senior Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) takers will equal or surpass a score of 1005. She said

that the top 10% of the test takers exceeded the State and National average of 1200.



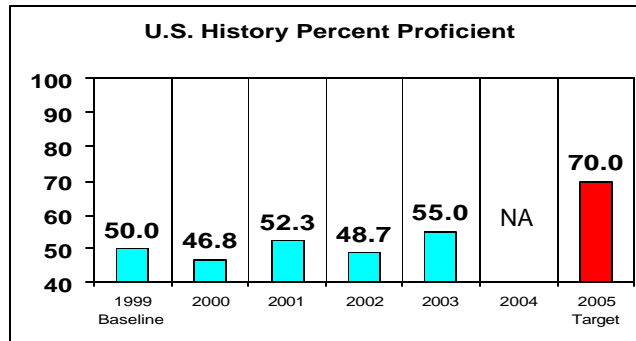
**The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities**

High Student Performance

*Objective: To prepare every student for
continuous learning and career readiness.*

Indicator 3: End-of-Course U.S. History

**Measurement: By
June 2005, 70.0%
of students
taking U.S.
History will score
at or above Level
III on the U.S.
History End-of-
Course Test.**





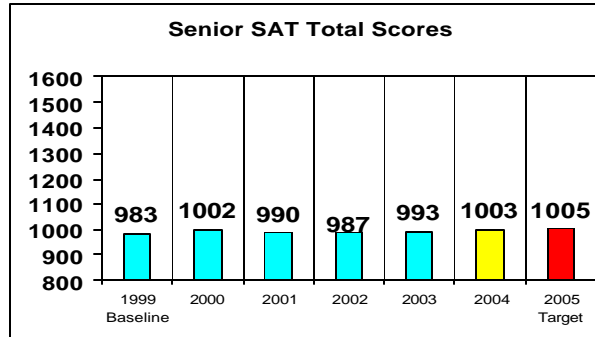
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 5: Scholastic Assessment Test

Measurement: By June 2005, the overall mean score for all senior SAT test takers will equal or surpass 1005.



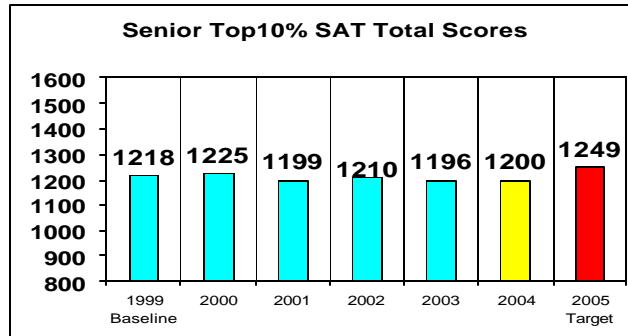
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 5: Scholastic Assessment Test

Measurement: By June 2005, the mean score for the top 10% of senior SAT test takers will equal or surpass 1249.





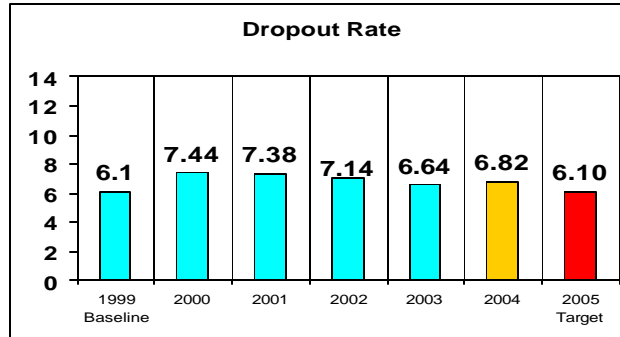
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 6: Dropout Rate

Measurement: By June 2005, the dropout rate will be no greater than 6.1.



Dr. Williamson reported that these dropout rates are a year behind. She also noted that the Scholars goals have changed and the State is changing the graduation requirements for 2006-07.



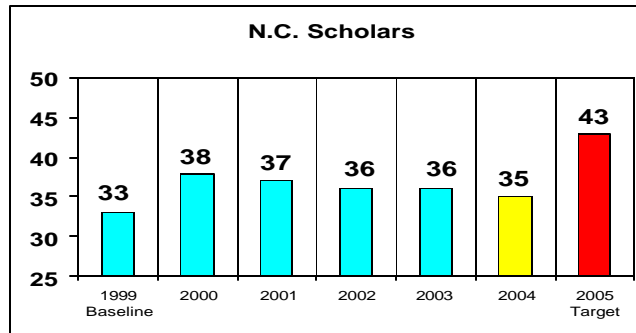
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 7: Scholars

Measurement: By June 2005, 43% of all graduates will achieve North Carolina Scholars recognition.





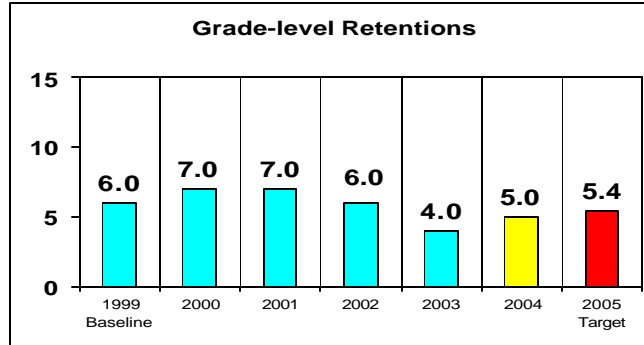
The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

High Student Performance

Objective: To prepare every student for continuous learning and career readiness.

Indicator 8: Grade-level Retentions

Measurement: By June 2005, the percentage of student grade-level retentions will be no greater than 5.4%.



Dr. Williamson stated that the grade level retention goals are changing in two years. They will try to identify students that need assistance earlier.

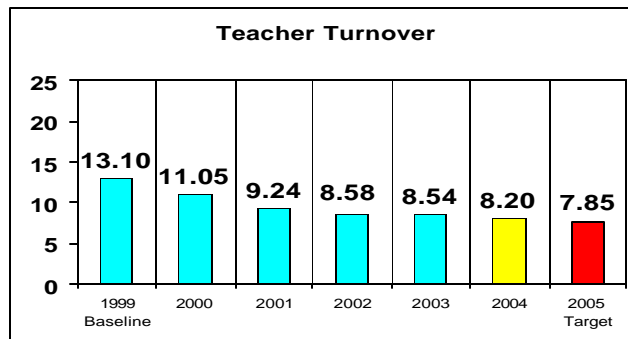


The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities

Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff

Objective: To recruit, retain, and compensate a diverse corps of quality teachers, administrators, and staff.

Measurement: By June 2005, the teacher turnover rate will show reasonable improvement each compact year.



Dr. Williamson noted that Pitt County's teacher turnover rate was one of the best in the State.

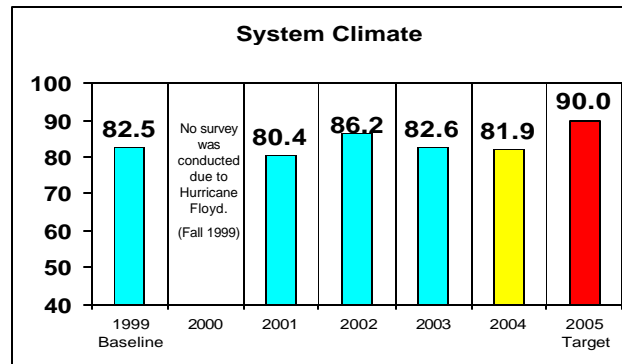


**The Education Compact
Pitt County Schools Responsibilities**

Safe and Orderly Environment

Objective: To provide a learning environment that is inviting and supportive of high student performance.

Measurement: By June 2005, 90.0% of the average of all survey areas on the annual climate survey will be positive.



For Safe and Orderly Environment, grades 4, 5, 7, 8, and 12 were surveyed.

Dr. Williamson concluded her presentation stating that there had been an upward trend over the life of the Compact and the staff and board remain committed to the students of Pitt County.

Dr. Priddy thanked the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education for their investment in the students and schools of Pitt County.

Mr. Elliott then presented County Government's accomplishments in regards to the pre-established goals of the original compact. He noted that this is a status report for Year 4 of the Education Compact and that the County and Schools are currently in Year 5 (FY 04-05) of the Compact. Mr. Elliott stated that the Board of Commissioners had two goals for the Compact. The first goal was to increase the current expense funding for schools into the top 1/3 in the State. The second goal was to lobby the General Assembly concerning the County's low wealth funding status.

Mr. Elliott stated that the County appropriated \$1.8 million above and beyond Year 3 school funding for Year 4 to be \$26.3 million. He said they had included for reference the actual appropriation for Year 5 which is \$27.4 million which includes \$683,000 for per pupil allocation plus \$340,000 for the space rent agreement.



The Education Compact Pitt County - Board of Commissioners Responsibilities

Funding Performance

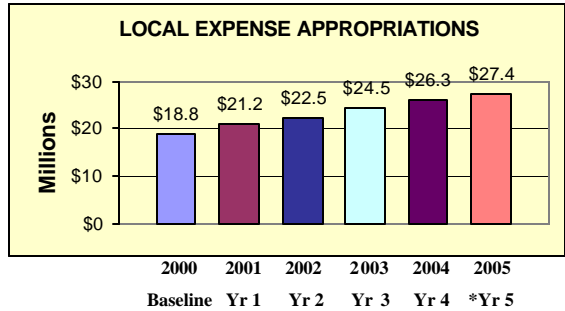
Objective: To increase Pitt County's per pupil allocation to the top third (33%) of North Carolina counties.

Indicator: Annual Appropriation/Expenditure

Measurement:

(Objective 1 & 2)

Pitt County will increase its current expense allocation to the Board of Education.



* Includes \$340,000 for Pitt County Schools space lease as reflected in County Budget.

Mr. Elliott said the next slide shows the County's rank, with Pitt County being 37% or 43rd out of 115 systems and based on full appropriation. He said this ranking uses DPI (Department of Public Instruction) data. The second data set is based on the NCACC (North Carolina Association of County Commissioners) information using 100 counties. Pitt County ranked 25th out of 100 counties for Year 4. He said staff has conducted research to predict Year 5 ranking and after surveying it is estimated that Pitt County will rank 30th out of 100 counties.



The Education Compact (FY 03-04 Reporting)
Pitt County - Board of Commissioners Responsibilities

Funding Performance

Objective: To increase Pitt County's per pupil allocation to the top third (33%) of North Carolina counties.

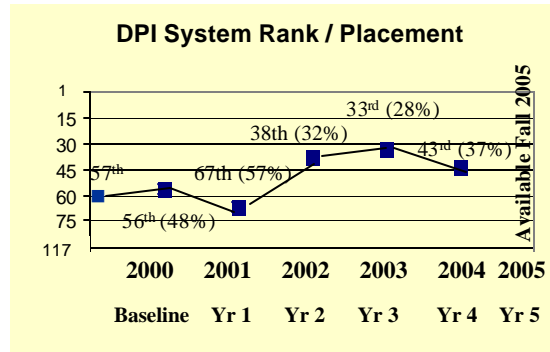
Indicator: Annual Appropriation/Expenditure

Measurement:

(Objective 1 & 2)

Pitt County will increase its current expense allocation to the Board of Education.

Note: DPI data includes Current Expense, Fines & Forfeitures, Interest Earnings and Fund Balance Appropriated from the Pitt County Board of Education



Note: Previously 117 systems; 115 beginning 2004



The Education Compact (FY 03-04 Reporting)
Pitt County - Board of Commissioners Responsibilities

Funding Performance

Objective: To increase Pitt County's per pupil allocation to the top third (33%) of North Carolina counties.

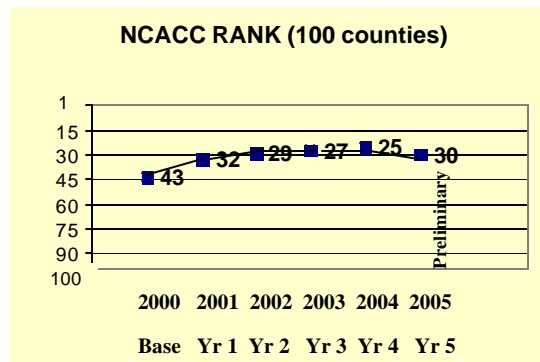
Indicator: Annual Appropriation/Expenditure

Measurement:

(Objective 1 & 2)

Pitt County will increase its current expense allocation to the Board of Education.

Note: NCACC data accounts for total Current Expense appropriation as reflected in original adopted budgets.





The Education Compact (FY 03-04 Reporting)
Pitt County - Board of Commissioners Responsibilities

Lobbying Efforts

Objective: To seek full low-wealth funding from the State of North Carolina.

Measurement:
(Not established)

Indicator: (Not established.)

Strategy:

Pitt County Board of Commissioners will lobby the NC General Assembly for full low-wealth funding.

Local Lobby Efforts:

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners continued to lobby Pitt County's local legislative delegation regarding the need to provide full low-wealth school funding. An additional \$5 million was added in the 03-04 Short Session, for a total of \$105 million recurring low-wealth funding that is distributed to low-wealth Tier 3 counties.

Mr. Elliott stated that the second goal was to lobby for full low wealth funding from the State. He noted that there was a total of \$105 million recurring low wealth funding. He stated that the Board would continue to lobby Pitt County's Local Delegation for support in the General Assembly for full low-wealth funding.



The Education Compact (FY 03-04 Reporting)
Pitt County - Board of Commissioners Responsibilities

Lobbying Efforts

Objective: To seek full low-wealth funding from the State of North Carolina.

Measurement:
(Not established)

Indicator: (Not established.)

Strategy:

Pitt County Board of Commissioners will work with the N.C. Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) to establish a legislative goal of full low-wealth funding.

Local Lobby Efforts:

In the Fall of 2004, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners lobbied the NCACC to make full low-wealth school funding a priority and a legislative goal. This would potentially be taken to legislators in the long and/or short sessions beginning in 2004-05.

Commissioner Comments

Chairman James asked if commissioners wished to make comments.

Vice Chairman Owens spoke about the meaning of the "Compact" and that this was a group of people with a common goal that have been striving to improve education. He said it was not Pitt County's ranking that this group was working on but it was a group of people interested in improving education. He said the funds that funded the compact were a gift and now we need to work to create new revenues to see that this excellence in education can be continued. He said that it had been alluded to, in discussions, about increased revenues from taxation and a bond issue. He said both boards need to work together in this joint effort to continue to pursue excellence in education and the continuation of this compact.

Commissioner Hammond asked about Tier 3 in low-wealth. Dr. Priddy explained that a court case came about it was then determined that the State was going to have to do more for counties with a low tax base.

Commissioner Bowen said he appreciated Vice Chairman Owens comments. Both boards must work closely. The Board of Commissioners is pursuing a one cent sales tax for new revenue for school capital expenditures and for Pitt Community College. He suggested that the Board of Education members also contact their local legislators for support with the one percent sales tax.

Commissioner Coulson asked if there would be any reduction in funding for the schools since there is not a new compact. Mr. Elliott said that this was a misunderstanding and explained the schools funding. Commissioner Coulson said that the Schools are receiving \$8.6 million more each year than they were receiving prior to the compact. He suggested the newspaper should report this situation accurately.

Chairman James stated that in his 27 years of service as a county commissioner, he had never seen the schools funding cut. Commissioner Garris stated that the boards need to celebrate the accomplishments because they have been quite significant. He reviewed a comprehensive list of capital projects that had been completed or that are on-going and spoke about being blessed with a growing county.

Commissioner Hammond said that even during the compact the Northwest Elementary school was built and Pactolus and Whitfield schools had million dollar projects being completed. He said this Board wants this County to be the best in the east.

Co-Chair Jill Camnitz asked if there were other comments.

Ms. Betsy Leech expressed her appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for the work and accomplishments done as a result of the compact. She said she looks forward to the challenges in the future and hopes that there will be participation and interest by citizens as well as churches in the community.

She suggested they needed to establish a vision of where these two boards want the County to go with education.

Items for Decision

Joint Resolution in Support of Schools

**JOINT RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATION
BY THE
PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
PITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Education mutually desire to improve the education and achievement levels of Pitt County's school children; and

WHEREAS, both boards understand and value the goal of working together for the needs of Pitt County's school children; and

WHEREAS, both Boards understand that time, money and directed action are necessary to achieve desired educational goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, both boards value the joint accomplishments that have been realized and will continue with the bi-annual joint meetings to discuss accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, both boards understand the importance of regular communications during the budget process and throughout the school year to achieve desired educational goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, both boards commit to continue to increase the communication and cooperation between the boards and their staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT the Pitt County Board of Commissioners and the Pitt County Board of Education agree to work cooperatively to improve the education and achievement levels of Pitt County's school children.

ADOPTED this 29th day of November, 2004.

Pitt County Board of Commissioners

Pitt County Board of Education

Eugene James, Chairman

Jill Camnitz, Chairman

Motion:

Motion to adopt the Joint Resolution in Support of Pitt County Schools.

Motion made by Commissioner John Minges.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Mr. Dick Tolmie said that a lot of good had been done through the Compact and it had helped tremendously with the budgeting from year to year. He said as long as the Board of Commissioners gives schools a high priority and they continue to have good communications improvements will continue. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for the Compact and the completed capital projects over the last few years.

Motion to adopt the Joint Resolution in Support of Pitt County Schools.

Motion made by Dick Tolmie.

Motion seconded by Mary Grace Bright.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Closing Comments

Co-Chair James spoke about cooperation between the two boards being the key to success for education in Pitt County. He said the funds that went into the Education Compact plans were actually intended for capital construction and the students. He said both boards need to work together to get the one percent sales tax passed.

Co-Chair Jill Camnitz said that both boards need to be united in their goals and work together. She said she appreciated education being one of the Board of Commissioners top project. She said their support is critical. She stated that there had been improvements in teach turnover rate, graduation rates, etc. and they need support for their goals including the sales tax initiative, facility needs, more desks in classrooms and better facilities for students and teachers.

Co-Chair James announced the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC

Clerk to the Board