

Misconceptions heard throughout the community:

- *CASE originally wanted a cap of no more than 400 students", so parents should not be upset about the proposed plan.*

In reality, the original size was determined to be around 375. The number seemed to fit teaching teams of 125 students per grade level. Each teacher taught 5 sections of their subject + one mini-course. In 2001 the Board of Trustees said that never again did they want to hear that GT identified students were not allowed to register at WAVE. Early discussions revolved around having to increase size in multiples to make the scheduling of teachers work. WAVE has since evolved into a different program, and has grown several fold. Current discussions of an optimal number must center around what the magnet is now. **CASE and WAVE parents did not come up with the 400 number. More children on one campus would maintain a more efficiently run and financially feasible magnet.**

- *"We are not splitting the program, it is Replicating". Why wouldn't the district copy and replicate a great program.*

The WAVE magnet has already evolved from what it was in the beginning - as any great program will. It has gotten stronger and the results are only more impressive. There is no way to replicate certain parts of the magnet school, like certain mini-courses and the number of course selections that students have now. In the future steps should be taken to plan for expansion and changes to the magnet. The number of GT children will naturally crest. Our district has maintained a constant level of GT identified students for at least 10 years-about 10% of the intermediate school population is GT Identified. **Therefore, according to the demographer's data, there will be no more than 1012 identified intermediate school students as far out as 2022. Enrollment in WAVE will never go above that number, so there is no reason to replicate the magnet.** Replicating the magnet would be less efficient and more costly.

- *The district "has the money to do it now" so it should be done now.*

The \$200,000 that the district has given is a per year cost, not a start-up cost. The district may have that money now, but it may not in the future. Cuts have already been made to the magnet on the Westbrook campus because the district said it could not afford to keep the technology person for the campus. The district apparently does not have the money even now. **The district has not yet disclosed the start up costs, which would be critical in replicating the high technology magnet on another campus.**

-*Board members have been heard saying that "parents shouldn't worry about cost."*

The district has repeatedly talked about its budget problems and even asked parents last year in a survey which places would they like the district to save money or require fees for services. Money spent will determine whether the new campus will actually be a replication of the current magnet. **As taxpayers, and as stakeholders in the district, we are all concerned with costs and money!**

- *People on the south side are excited" - they don't participate because Westbrook is so far away, but now they can.*

People from all over the district are participating now, and many in the “south side” fear that the replicated magnet will not be as outstanding as the one on the Westbrook campus. **Many people choose not to participate because they want to be on their home campus or because they do not seek the rigor of the curriculum at WAVE. If they want what the WAVE has to offer, they will choose it, as many of their neighbors do.** It is all about choice. While they have made a choice to not participate, many people choose to travel from the other side of the district to attend. If the magnet is divided, it will be impossible to maintain the integrity of the curriculum without driving costs higher. Then when it is too costly to offer the high school level courses, certain mini-courses, and unique technology to a fewer number of students, the unique features of WAVE will be lost, and people will choose not to come.

-The school district will not entertain the idea of closing a neighborhood school to its community.

When two schools are one mile apart, either school could be the hub of the community. CCI in particular is not even in a neighborhood. The students in CCI have only been there 2 or 3 years and the students at LCI would be grateful to have more classmates. Costs of transporting students to either campus will not change. WAVE however, is its own community as well. If you divide the magnet into 2 campuses, the WAVE community will be changed forever.

-GT children should not be on a campus by themselves because they need to learn to interact with other people.

GT children interact with other types of children in many places throughout the community including sports events, church, and the grocery store. It will not make these kids any more quirky or different than they would be anyway. In fact, these children often feel the freedom to try things others enjoy that they may have avoided on a campus where they are in the minority. **We cannot find any research to confirm that children are socially impaired by attending a GT magnet school on a dedicated campus.**

-The administration does not believe that it is good for any special population should be the main population on a campus.

Clear View Education Center and Clear Horizons Early College High School are places in the district where the children in unique situations are working by themselves on a campus and are thriving. In fact CHECHS is an award winning school.

WAVE magnet students would excel on a campus by themselves or with other populations of students. However, if the campus is divided, administration and staff will be spending time and money maintaining equity and curricular integrity instead of steadily strengthening the magnet to become an award winner also.

-It is illegal to have a GT school be on a designated campus with no other attendance zone children.

We are not asking for WAVE to be on its own campus with no other groups of students. However, it is not illegal to do so. There are award winning accredited schools all over Texas and the United States that are GT magnet schools on campuses of their own, or with other identified groups. (T.H. Rogers Middle School, Carnegie Vanguard High School, Dallas Talented and Gifted, Hunter College Elementary, and Hunter College High School to name a few.) The TEA has confirmed that it is legal to create a school in which the entire population is academically gifted and there are no attendance zone students.