

**Charlotte Observer**

Friday, June 25, 2010

*In response to "School leaders seek ways to give each child a chance" (June 24):*

**CMS Equity Report spotlights shortcomings; don't eliminate it**

The writer is on the board of Mecklenburg Area Coming Together for Schools.

Contrary to claims, the Equity Report provides a great deal of meaningful data. For example: the Harvard teaching study that Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman so often cites states clearly that "teachers improve rapidly in early years," with a leveling off after the fourth year. A baseline standard in the report measures each school's percentage of teachers with 5-plus years of experience.

The 2010 Equity Report revealed that 27 percent of high-poverty schools met that year's standard, as opposed to 70 percent of non-high-poverty schools. We at Mecklenburg ACTS believe CMS should regularly provide the public with this kind of information, and that an independent committee should regularly assess it.

The solution to problems with the Equity Report is not to stop monitoring standards, but to do it with more care than has been shown in recent years.

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