

## Achieve Together Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Achieve Together?

- Achieve Together will build community support for improving student performance in the five high schools of the CMS Achievement Zone. The Achievement Zone contains some of our community's lowest performing schools.
- This initiative is funded through a \$487,000 investment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It will follow the Gates philosophy of how to involve parents and the community in urban school reform. ([www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org))

### Who is participating in Achieve Together?

- Achieve Together is a partnership between Lee Institute, CM3A and other community organizations that will work to engage people across the community.
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg African American Agenda (CM3A) is a grassroots, volunteer initiative launched in January of 2007 to create an agenda to address significant disparities facing African Americans living in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.
- The Lee Institute designs and advances collaboration to achieve positive results for our clients and their communities.
- The partnership will work with CMS and Achievement Zone school leaders.

### Why?

- The Achievement Zone was created to provide intensive support to the lower-performing schools in the district.
- During CM3A's January meeting, it chose to make education its top priority. For the past year, it has enlisted more than 1,000 community members and created a steering committee and organization to focus attention on and build public support for the needs of the city's lower-performing schools and students.

### Where is the initiative focused?

- The initiative will focus on the five high schools of the CMS Achievement Zone: Garinger, Waddell, West Charlotte, West Mecklenburg and Midwood.
- It will also focus on creating a community-wide advocacy plan to encourage positive policy to support students, teachers and schools in the Achievement Zone.

### When will the project begin?

- The project planning period is from January, 2008 to August, 2008 followed by an initial 12 month gradual implementation.

### How will the project be implemented?

- During the planning period, CM3A and the other community partners will develop a strategic plan, mapping out the initiative's implementation.
- CM3A and other community partner volunteers will directly support students and parents at the five high schools. The area of support will be determined during the planning period.
- Achieve Together will also provide community members with the organization, training, and data they need to advocate for the public policy changes that are needed to prepare every student for college, career and life.