



# The News & Observer

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## SAS' golden anniversary

How an NC State graduate project became one of the world's most successful software companies Page 3A



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Courtesy of Tony Barr

Cover of the SAS user's guide from 1976.

### Wake to teach diverse view of America's 250th

BY T. KEUNG HUI khui@newsobserver.com

Wake County schools are being encouraged to promote a diverse look at the nation's history as students commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States. Wake County school administrators on Tuesday presented the district's plans for marking America 250, the nationwide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Schools should "highlight the diverse voices (Indigenous, enslaved, immigrant and women) that have shaped North Carolina's history over the last 250 years," according to Wake's school guidance. "As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, WCPSS recognizes this as a pivotal opportunity to examine our shared history through a more inclusive lens," the guidance document says. "By centering 'America 250' within our curriculum and community outreach, we aim to move beyond traditional narratives to ensure every student sees their ancestors' contributions as foundational to the American story." Wake's approach drew praise from school board members at Tuesday's student achievement committee meeting. School board vice chair Sam Hershey thanked administrators for developing a plan that's not playing it safe. "Thank you for making this an honest reflection of 250 and not a whitewashed reflection of 'rah, rah, we're the best' kind of thing," Hershey told staff. Wake's guidance comes after the State Board of Education adopted new social studies standards in 2021 that call for teachers to more explicitly discuss racism and discrimination and the perspectives of historically marginalized groups. Supporters of the state standards said they provide a fuller telling of the nation's legacy. But critics said the standards paint an overly negative view of the nation's history.

#### SCHOOLS TO 'HONOR THE DIVERSE EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES'

Wake school administrators said that all schools are expected to mark America 250. Statewide, there will be around 700 events commemorating the anniversary.

SEE WAKE, 6A



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