

Additional Information

NHCS Notice of Rights Under Section 504, 1973 Rehabilitation Act

1. Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act is a non-discrimination statute barring discrimination on the basis of disability.
2. It is the policy of the New Hanover County Schools (NHCS) not to discriminate on the basis of disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by the Act.
3. The 1973 Rehabilitation Act requires the school system to locate, evaluate, and determine if the student is a qualified individual requiring accommodations necessary to provide access to educational programs. The accommodation will be provided in the least restrictive environment for the student.
4. Parents are entitled to have the opportunity to review relevant educational records under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The requirements are described in the local board of education policy manual and implementation procedures.
5. Parents or guardians disagreeing with the decisions reached by school personnel regarding necessary accommodations for access to educational programs may request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer by notifying the school principal.
6. Compliance with Section 504 is managed by the Exceptional Programs Office, which can be contacted by calling 254-4445.

Grievance Procedures Section 504, 1973 Rehabilitation Act

When parents or guardians and the school are unable to agree about services proposed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, it is expected that the disagreement be resolved at a level closest to the student. The first attempt to reach accord should be through a meeting involving the classroom teacher(s) that serves the student and the principal at the local school level.

If no resolution is reached, the parent or guardian may request, in writing, a review. Address the written request for a review to NHCS Section 504 Compliance, Exceptional Programs Office, 6410 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington, NC 28412. As a part of this review, the parent

or guardian will receive the formal Grievance Procedures adopted by New Hanover County Schools.

At any point in this grievance procedure, the complainant has the right to file formal complaints with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 330 C St., S. W., Washington, D. C. 20202

Disabilities

“If a person with a disability needs special accommodations for an activity sponsored by New Hanover County Schools, she/he must notify the school/group sponsoring the activity, in writing, at least ten (10) working days before the activity is to take place of the need for accommodation. The written notification must state the nature of the disability and the specific accommodations required.” No individual, identified with a disability, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination from any program or activity of this school, because of their disability. The school seeks to locate and identify every three through twenty-one year old person with a disability in its district. A free appropriate public education will be provided to any qualified person with a disability.

Problem Solving Model Team

The mission of the Blair Elementary Problem Solving Model Team (PSM Team) is to identify and implement strategies to enhance the learning and achievement of individual students. The team is comprised of the school social worker, an Exceptional Children’s teacher, classroom teachers, and the parent of the referred student. Other members may include the School Psychologist and/or an administrator. If your child is experiencing difficulty in school a referral may be requested through your child’s teacher or the school counselor. This request will lead to the development of the Intervention Plan for Student Success through a team process of reviewing information, proposing success strategies/interventions and monitoring results. Due to time constraints, PSM meetings are scheduled one after the other; therefore it is very important for parents to attend meetings at designated times.

Additional Information

John J. Blair School Discrimination Policy

John J. Blair Elementary School does not and will not discriminate in relation to race, sex, age, religion, national background, handicap and other human differences in all matters concerning our customers. This policy of nondiscrimination is in accordance with local board policy 1710.

Educational Records

A parent or legal custodian may review their child's educational file. Upon request for review, and proper identification, the school shall arrange a conference with the parent or legal custodian.

NHCS ANNUAL NOTICE ABOUT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires New Hanover County Schools to annually notify parents and students who are 18 years of age or older about their rights concerning educational records. The following information summarizes these rights.

Parents and students 18 years of age and older have the:

- Right to confidentiality of the Official Record at the collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages
- Right to inspect, review and obtain free copies of the Official Record
- Right to have a representative of your choosing inspect and review the Official Record with you
- Right to a full explanation, interpretation, and analysis of the Official Record by the principal or designee
- Right to add data or information to the Official Record, which explains or clarifies information, contained in the Official Record
- Right to a list of the types of and the location of all records maintained and disclosed by New Hanover County Schools
- Right to know that written consent is required to disclose the Official Record to others EXCEPT for the following: NHCS officials, teachers and other employees (list posted at each school), other schools where a student intends to enroll, state and federal education authorities, financial aid applications, studies and research, accrediting organizations, judicial order or subpoena, health or safety emergency, and Directory Information

- Right to request the correction or removal of information from the Official Record if you believe it is inaccurate, outdated, irrelevant, misleading or violates privacy
- Right to a hearing, if NHCS refuses your request to correct or remove information from the Official Record
- Right to file a complaint regarding records with the U.S. Department of Education, FERPA Office, Washington, DC 20202. Complaints must be written and specify allegations of fact
- Right to obtain copies of the New Hanover County School Board Policies on records from the New Hanover County Schools Superintendent's Office
- Right to know that the New Hanover County School Board of Education has designated a student's name and school of enrollment as Directory Information
- Right to know that Directory Information is disclosed as a part of officially designated school activities such as: team/activity rosters, scholar athlete awards, athletic eligibility, honor society, honor roll, good citizens, academic scholars, presidential awards
- Right to refuse to allow New Hanover County Schools to disclose Directory Information by notifying the principal within 10 days of receipt of this notice
- Right to know that when records are no longer needed, NHCS destroys them according to a destruction schedule. NHCS permanently maintains only the following information: student name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance, classes attended, grade levels completed, date of birth and identification numbers
- Right to know that a graduating senior's name, address, phone number and school name are disclosed to the military
- Please direct any questions regarding educational records to the principal.

