

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes that medical circumstances may arise that make it impossible for students to receive the opportunities of the educational program in the regular school environment. To this end, the board shall provide the opportunity to receive instruction at home or in a medical facility to any student who:

1. is expected to be confined for four weeks or longer to a medical facility or home for treatment or for a period of convalescence; or
2. is disabled to the degree that it is impossible or medically inadvisable for him or her to attend public school, even with the provision of special classes and transportation.

The goals of homebound or medical facility instruction are to provide meaningful instruction based on the student’s needs, to assist the student in returning to his or her regular classroom program as quickly as possible, and to prevent the student from losing credit toward promotion or graduation. The extent of such instruction should be determined by the student’s individual needs and ability to engage in instructional activities based on his or her medical condition.

The superintendent, school principals, and teachers shall ensure that instruction provided at home or at an off-campus site is consistent with the goals and objectives of the educational program. Teachers are expected to provide appropriate assignments while a student is receiving instruction at home or in a medical facility. In addition, a homebound or medical facility instructor may be assigned to coordinate with the student’s regular teacher(s), to serve as a liaison between the school and the student’s home, and to provide direct instruction and academic support to the student as needed. Such instructors shall have the same access to texts, resources, and other instructional materials as any other teacher employed by the school system.

For purposes of the school attendance policy, a student who receives instruction and completes assignments at home or in a medical facility pursuant to this policy will be considered in attendance at school for the period of time during which he or she received homebound or medical facility instruction.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, students with disabilities shall receive homebound services as required by law.

The superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to implement the requirements of this policy.

Legal References: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et. seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 300; The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 706(8), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; The Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12134, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; G.S. 115C, art. 9, 115C-36, -47, -391; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy GCS-D-000

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000); Special Education Programs/Rights of Students with Disabilities (policy 3520); Attendance (policy 4400); Homebound/Hospital Instruction Procedures (3132-R)

Adopted: August 3, 2015

Replaces: Board policy 4.06.20, Hospital/Homebound