

NORTH CAROLINA ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

Policy Code: **4250/5075/7316**

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) seeks to provide a work and school environment free from violence or the threat of violence against employees, students or other persons. The board encourages eligible individuals to participate in the North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program established pursuant to Chapter 15C of the General Statutes. This program protects the address of relocated victims of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking or human trafficking to prevent a victim’s assailants or potential assailants from finding the victim through public records. The program provides participants with the use of a substitute mailing address and denies public access to a participant’s actual address.

A. PROGRAM DETAILS

The Address Confidentiality Program is administered by the State Attorney General. Information and assistance in applying to the program may be obtained by telephone from the Attorney General’s Address Confidentiality Program Office at (919) 716-6785.

Program participants receive an authorization card with a substitute mailing address that may be presented whenever an address is required. Mail sent to the substitute address is forwarded cost-free by the program to the participant at his or her residential address. Students, parents, or school personnel enrolled in the Address Confidentiality Program must provide a valid authorization card if they wish to keep their home address confidential.

B. SCHOOL PERSONNEL PARTICIPANTS

The name, actual address and telephone number of any school system personnel participating in the Address Confidentiality Program will not be open to inspection as a public record, will not be included as part of any employee directory published by the school system and will be redacted from any record released pursuant to G.S. 115C-320 provided the employee has provided a valid authorization card to the superintendent or designee. (See policies 5070/7350, Public Records – Retention, Release and Disposition, and 7820, Personnel Files.)

C. STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

The school system will use the actual address of a program participant, not the substitute address designated by the Attorney General, for any purpose related to admission or assignment but will keep the actual address confidential from the public, provided the student or parent has provided a valid authorization card to the principal. Student records will reflect only the substitute address and not the student’s actual address. The student’s telephone number also will be kept confidential from the public. The parent or guardian

of a student participant may request that a student's name be withheld from any release of directory information by the school, as provided in policy 4002, Parental Involvement.

When transferring school records from one school to another, the transferring school may send the files to the participant (parent or guardian) via the substitute address provided by the Address Confidentiality Program to ensure confidentiality of the student's new location.

D. DISCLOSURE PROHIBITED

The knowing and intentional disclosure of a program participant's actual address or telephone number to unauthorized persons is prohibited. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination. In addition, violators may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Legal References: G.S. Ch. 15C; 115C-47, -320, -366(g), -402(f); 132-1.1(d)

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 4002), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), School Assignment (policy 4150), Student Records (policy 4700), Public Records – Retention, Release and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Personnel Files (policy 7820)

Other Resources: *Address Confidentiality Program – Student Records* and *Address Confidentiality Program – Employee Records* (August 21, 2003) (Office of Attorney General Roy Cooper), available at <http://www.ncwise.org/generaldocs.html>

Adopted: July 14, 2014

Revised: January 15, 2018