



Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

<p>How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?</p>	<p>The Jackson County Board of Education believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level. To the extent reasonably possible, students should be given as much time or as little time as they need to be proficient at a particular level of study. Promotion standards and a process to be used in determining a student's readiness to progress to the next level of study have been developed based on all state law and State Board of Education policy requirements. The standards are based, in part, on proficiency in reading. A student will have multiple means of demonstrating his or her readiness to progress to the next level of study, such as standardized test scores, formative and diagnostic assessments, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student's work, and, when appropriate, accepted standards for assessing developmental growth. Principals have the authority to promote or retain students based upon the approved standards.</p>
<p>What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?</p>	<p>In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the North Carolina State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course.</p> <p>The standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website. There are standards for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Arts Education,● Career Technical Education,● Computer Science,● English Language Arts,● English Language Development,● Student Success Standards,● Healthful Living,● Information and Technology,● Mathematics,● Science,● Social Studies, and● World Language.



Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc.

In order to help fulfill the educational goals and objectives of the school system, the Jackson County Board of Education strives to provide instructional materials that will enrich and support the curriculum and enhance student learning. Instructional materials should be representative of the rich diversity of our nation and appropriate for the maturity levels and abilities of the students.

Instructional materials constitute all materials, whether print, non-print, digital or any combination thereof, used in the instructional program. For purposes of this policy, instructional materials will be divided into two categories: textbooks and supplementary materials.

A. SELECTION OF TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are systematically organized materials comprehensive enough to cover the primary objectives outlined in the current statewide instructional standards for a grade or course. Formats for textbooks may be print, non-print or digital media, including hardbound books, softbound books, activity-oriented programs, classroom kits and technology-based programs or materials that require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning process. Technology-based programs may include subscription or web-based materials.

State-approved textbooks will be used as the primary means to help students meet the goals and objectives of the current statewide instructional standards, unless the board approves alternative materials. The central curriculum committee or a school through its school improvement plan may submit a request for the use of alternative textbooks. The request should identify how the committee or school has ensured that the curriculum will continue to be aligned with the current statewide instructional standards and to meet the educational goals of the board.

B. SELECTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Supplementary materials are instructional and learning resources which are selected to complement, enrich or extend the curriculum. Such resources include, for example, specialized materials selected to meet diverse needs or rapidly changing circumstances, library materials, digital resources, the school system's media collection, classroom collections and teacher-selected resources for individual classes.



1. Objectives for Selection of Supplementary Materials - The procurement of materials must be accomplished in accordance with law, including the [First Amendment of the United States Constitution](#); board educational goals; board purchasing and accounting policies; and established selection guidelines, including the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library Association. The objectives for the selection of supplementary materials are as follows:

- a. to provide a wide range of materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the individual needs and varied interests, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, learning styles and developmental levels of the students served;
- b. to provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards;
- c. to provide a background of information that will enable students to comprehend their role as citizens in society and to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
- d. to provide resources representing various points of view on controversial issues so that students as young citizens may develop, under guidance, the skills of critical thinking and critical analysis;
- e. to provide resources representative of the many religious, ethnic and cultural groups in our nation and the contributions of these groups to our American heritage; and
- f. to place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of material of the highest quality in order to ensure a comprehensive collection appropriate for all users.

2. Process and Criteria for Selecting Supplementary Materials – The responsibility for the selection of supplementary materials is delegated to the professional staff under the direction of the superintendent and will be made primarily at the school level with the involvement of a school media and technology advisory committee. The committee shall be appointed by the principal and will include teachers and instructional support personnel representing various subject areas and grade levels, parents, and, if on-staff in the school, the library media coordinator and the technology facilitator. Students also should be involved when feasible.

The selection process used by the committee will include: (1) an evaluation of the existing collection; (2) an assessment of the available resource and curriculum needs of the school; and (3) consideration of individual teaching and learning styles. In coordinating the selection of resources, the committee should use reputable, unbiased selection tools prepared by professional educators and should arrange, when possible, for firsthand examination of resources to be purchased. When examining proposed materials, the committee should consider the following factors:

- a. the material's overall purpose, educational significance and direct relationship to instructional



- objectives and the curriculum and to the interests of the students;
- b. the material's reliability, including the extent to which it is accurate, authentic, authoritative, up-to-date, unbiased, comprehensive and well-balanced;
 - c. the material's technical quality, including the extent to which technical components are relevant to content and consistent with state-of-the-art capabilities;
 - d. the material's artistic, literary and physical quality and format, including its durability, manageability, clarity, appropriateness, skillfulness, organization and attractiveness;
 - e. the possible uses of the material, including suitability for individual, small group, large group, introduction, in-depth study, remediation and/or enrichment;
 - f. the contribution the material will make to the collection's breadth and variety of viewpoints;
 - g. recommendations of school personnel and students from all relevant departments and grade levels;
 - h. the reputation and significance of the material's author, producer and publisher; and
 - i. the price of the material weighed against its value and/or the need for it.

3. Materials Brought in by Teachers

Principals shall establish rules concerning what materials may be brought in by teachers without review. Principals are encouraged to involve teachers in establishing these rules.

C. REMOVAL OF OUTDATED SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

To ensure that the supplementary media collection remains relevant, the media and technology professionals, assisted by the media and technology advisory committee, shall review materials routinely to determine if any material is obsolete, outdated or irrelevant. The school media and technology advisory committee should remove materials no longer appropriate and replace lost, damaged and worn materials still of educational value. Materials may be removed only for legitimate educational reasons and subject to the limitations of the First Amendment. The superintendent may establish regulations that provide additional standards for removing supplementary materials to meet the educational needs of the school system. Requests by parents to remove supplementary media materials due to an objection to the materials will be reviewed pursuant to policy 3210, Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials.

D. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT MATERIALS

Supplementary materials offered as a gift will be reviewed pursuant to the criteria outlined in this policy;



	<p>policy 8220, Gifts and Bequests; and any regulations established by the superintendent. Gift material may be accepted or rejected by the board based upon such criteria.</p> <p>E. CHALLENGES TO TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS</p> <p>Challenges to materials will be addressed pursuant to policy 3210, Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials.</p> <p>Each district must also have a Literacy Intervention Plan (LIP). The plan must include Reading Camps as an extension of what occurs during the school year.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers may view Jackson County Public School’s Literacy Intervention Plan here https://www.jcpsnc.org/departments/curriculum</p> <p>JCPS also offers courses in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). These courses allow students to explore careers and earn credentials. CTE Career Clusters, Pathways, Course Information, Credentials, and Course Standards may be found at this link: Course Management System</p> <p>For more information, please contact Angie Dills, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, at adills@jcpmail.org or at (828) 586-2311 ext. 1954.</p>
<p>How will a parent learn about my child’s progress in school or with a class?</p>	<p>JCPS shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/test feedback. Feedback on conduct is also included.</p> <p>State Assessments:</p> <p>The Jackson County Board of Education believes that an effective testing and assessment program evaluates the progress of individual students and helps ensure that educational goals and objectives are being met for every child. A testing program also assists in the continued refinement of the instructional program. In addition, data from tests and assessments provide measures of student learning that are useful for evaluating educator effectiveness. The JCPS testing and assessment program is covered in Local School Board Policy Code 3410.</p> <p>In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. In high school, students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Additionally, high school students must</p>



	<p>take final assessments for course completion which count as 25% of their final grade.</p> <p>Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Students who are CTE Concentrators in Grade 12 take ACT WorkKeys. Those results are shared by ACT. Additional information on JCPS website for State Assessments: https://www.jcpsnc.org/departments/testing</p> <p>An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home.</p> <p>Parents and caregivers may view Jackson County Public School’s aligned literacy resources at https://www.jcpsnc.org/departments/curriculum in the top “Core Curriculum” section.</p> <p>North Carolina’s Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS[®] 8th Edition as the state’s K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring.</p> <p>Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) will be sent home with students in paper format; some assessments are accessible in the parent portal of the NC-SIS (Infinite Campus).</p>
<p>What are the qualifications of my child’s teachers?</p>	<p>Parents may look up your child’s teacher licensure status at this website link to the licensure website.</p> <p>The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license.</p> <p>Please contact the Jackson County Public Schools Human Resources office to verify an educator’s licensure status.</p>
	<p>The following are statutory school entry requirements, including required immunizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admission requirements: GS_115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) ● Immunization records: GS_130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov)



<p>What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunization requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64”) <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended Immunization Schedules • Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements • Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements • Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements
<p>How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?</p>	<p>Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions daily about your child’s school day. • Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. • Connect with teachers to understand your child’s progress. • Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn. • Attend different events at your child’s school to stay connected and learn how to support them. <p>Parent Guides for Academic Standards: The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELA Parent Guides • ELD Parent Guide • Math Parent Guides: K-5, 6-8 • Social Studies Parent Guides (coming soon) • Science Parent Guide (coming soon) <p>Reading and Literacy Support: This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: Amplify Parent Resources</p>



	<p>Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phonemic awareness 2. Phonics 3. Vocabulary 4. Fluency 5. Comprehension 6. Oral language <p>Printable activities at this link DCRI Printables will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact the Curriculum & Instruction office at the Board of Education or email cao@jcpsmail.org</p>
<p>How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>Jackson County Public Schools embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child's understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others.</p> <p>Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.</p> <p>Additionally, JCPS implements the Character Strong curriculum, a K-12 research-backed curricula that increases student belonging, well-being, and engagement. More information may be found at the Character Strong website.</p>
<p>How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</p>	<p>Jackson County Public Schools uses the following platforms for communication between home/school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Remind</i> ○ <i>Campus Messenger of Infinite Campus, the NC Student Information System</i> <p>Parents can view students' grades on the Campus Parent component of the NC Student Information System, Infinite Campus. To obtain parental access to Infinite Campus please contact the data manager at your child's school. .</p> <p>The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong</p>



	<p>relationships with your child’s teacher and supporting communication between home and school.</p> <p>Building Strong Relationships with Your Child’s Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning (NC Rethink Education Program)</p> <p>Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following website.</p>
<p>What services are available for parents and their children?</p>	<p>A comprehensive listing of all services for students including academic advisement, college planning, driver’s education, health screenings, counseling services, mental health services, and after school programs may be found in the JCPS Handbook at https://www.jcpsnc.org/academics/handbook</p> <p>Tutoring: NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring offers virtual statewide wraparound support to middle and high school students in NC public schools. Tutoring is available in Math, Science and ELA, and is offered via a personalized partnership with district/school leadership to best meet the needs of selected students each semester.</p>
<p>What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?</p>	<p>Jackson County Public Schools welcomes parental participation in our schools. Many schools offer a PTA or PTO to encourage family and community involvement. Schools plan various family-oriented events throughout the year including literacy nights, STEM nights, book fairs, band concerts, choral concerts, and more. Please contact your child’s school to learn more about how you can become an active and involved parent at your child’s school.</p>
<p>What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?</p>	<p>Jackson County Public Schools offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests, skills at their academic level.</p> <p><u>Career and Technical Education (CTE)</u> NC has made a significant investment in developing students and programs to meet the needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Public Schools offer opportunities for students to develop career awareness in 5th grade, explore careers in grades 6-8, and experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content in grades 9-12.</p> <p>In JCPS, students are able to explore these career pathways from grades 6-8, engineering technology and agriculture.</p>



In JCPS, students are able to experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content from grades 9-12 in agriculture, construction, woodworking, health science, culinary, early childhood education, business, information technology, marketing and family and consumer science.

For more information on CTE in NC, and to learn about Career Clusters, Pathways, and Course Information, Standards, and applicable Credentials please visit: [Course Management System](#).

Rigorous and Challenging Coursework for Advanced Learners

Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG):

In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment.

The JCPS Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. You can find the plan at <https://www.jcpsnc.org/programs/aig>

JCPS has developed an AIG Brochure to help parents better understand the AIG program. This describes how students will be identified and served across grades K-12. Visit <https://www.jcpsnc.org/programs/aig> for parent information.

In JCPS, students are often provided the following services:

- Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups;
- Accelerated opportunities (subject and/or grade acceleration, credit by demonstrated mastery (CDM), AP/IB/CIE courses, dual enrollment courses;
- Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and
- Other opportunities for extension of content standard.

Services for AIG students may be provided by AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students.

Contact the district AIG Coordinator, Laura Dills, with questions at ldills@jcpsmail.org or (828)586-2311 ext. 1950.



Honors Level Courses:

In JCPS, students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the course catalog located within the NC Student Information System, Infinite Campus. Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.

Career and College Promise (CCP):

JCPS partners with Southwestern Community College to offer dual enrollment opportunities through the CCP program. If your high school student qualifies, students may earn high school credit by completing community college coursework.

CCP courses may be taken in the College Transfer or Career and Technical Education pathway. These courses count for both high school and college credit. Tuition is free for families. Currently enrolled North Carolina high school students who meet eligibility criteria for their chosen pathway can participate in CCP College Transfer and CTE pathways. These courses are open to all juniors and seniors who meet admittance criteria established by the NC community college board. Ninth and tenth grade students may qualify if they are academically gifted in reading and math and meet admittance criteria.

To learn more about this program, please contact the school counselor at your child’s school. Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CCP website](#).

CIHS/Early College:

JCPS also partners with Southwestern Community College to offer two early college programs at Jackson County Early College and Blue Ridge Early College.

Jackson County Early College and Blue Ridge Early College is a choice school for students and families. It is an opportunity for the students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate’s degree and/or CTE credentials at the same time. Students can stay for an additional fifth year to complete their credential before graduating from high school.

Visit Jackson County Early College’s website at jcec.jcpsnc.org or Blue Ridge Early College’s website at brec.jcpsnc.org for more information.

Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CIHS Website](#)



Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

In NC, 40 Advanced Placement courses are offered in public high schools. Jackson County Public Schools offers 8 AP courses at Smoky Mountain High School.

Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in [State Board policy](#).

AP exams are free for NC public high school students enrolled *in these courses*.

Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. All of the colleges in the UNC System offer credit.

More information is available on the [NCDPI AP website](#).

NCVPS:

[North Carolina Virtual Public School \(NCVPS\)](#) is NC's state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse learners.

Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking an NCVPS courses.

A complete listing of all the courses available through NCVPS is available on their website at <https://ncvps.org/catalogs/>.

For further information, or to register for an NCVPS course, students should contact their school counselor.

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM):

Jackson County Public Schools offers opportunities for students to earn credit for a high school course without enrolling in the course. All high school courses, with a few exceptions as noted by the state, are



	<p>available for students to try for CDM. There are two phases of assessments that a student must go through to earn credit for the course. For more information, contact Adam Holt, Director of Testing & Accountability, at aholt@jcpsmail.org or (828) 586-2311 ext. 1940 or visit https://www.jcpsnc.org/academics/credit-by-demonstrated-mastery</p> <p>Governor’s School: Each summer, NC Governor’s School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in an 4-week residential program at two college campus sites.</p> <p>For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact Angie Dills, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction at adills@jcpsmail.org or (828) 586-2311 or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org.</p>
<p>What school choices are available for my child?</p>	<p>Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by Local Board of Education</p> <p>Jackson County Public Schools offers these additional school choice options for students/families: Jackson Community School and Jackson County Early College. For early learners, Jackson County Public Schools offers pre-kindergarten options in each elementary school. For more information, please contact Laura Dills, ldillsl@jcpsmail.org or (828) 586-2311 ext. 1950</p> <p>There are other options for families to choose for their education:</p> <p>Charter Schools</p> <p>Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.</p> <p>If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit NC charter school for information, resources, and contacts.</p>



	<p>Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration.</p> <p>For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools.</p> <p>For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information</p> <p>Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority.</p>
<p>What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</p>	<p>For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.</p> <p>Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents Project Child Find</p> <p>For more information, please contact Kelly Doppke, Director of Exceptional Children and Student Support Services at kdoppke@jcpsmail.org or (828) 586-2311 ext. 1928.</p>
<p>What is the contact information for the schools and district office?</p>	<p>Jackson County Board of Education & Central Office 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC 28779, ph. (828) 586-2311</p> <p>Blue Ridge School 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, NC 28717, ph. (828) 743-2646</p> <p>Blue Ridge Early College 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, NC 28717, ph. (828) 743-2646</p> <p>Cullowhee Valley School 240 Wisdom Drive, Cullowhee, NC 28723, ph. (828) 293-5667</p>



	<p><u>Fairview School</u> 251 Big Orange Way, Sylva, NC 28779, ph. (828) 586-2819</p> <p><u>Jackson Community School</u> 3770 Skyland Drive, Sylva, NC 28779, ph. (828) 586-4328</p> <p><u>Jackson County Early College</u> 404 College Drive, Sylva, NC 28779, ph. (828) 354-0343</p> <p><u>Scotts Creek School</u> 516 Parris Branch Road, Sylva, NC 28779, ph. (828) 631-2740</p> <p><u>Smokey Mountain Elementary</u> 884 US Highway 441 North, Whittier, NC 28789, ph. (828) 497-5535</p> <p><u>Smoky Mountain High School</u> 100 Smoky Mountain Drive, Sylva, NC 28779, ph (828) 586-2177</p>
<p>What are some resources to support my child’s health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?</p>	<p>Jackson County Public Schools recognizes that the health and well-being of students are paramount to a student’s success. Therefore, we partner with organizations such as the Jackson County Health Department and Blue Ridge Health to provide services to students upon parental consent. Blue Ridge Health provides comprehensive school-based health services in two school locations (Fairview School and Smoky Mountain High School) and via telehealth for students. For more information about these programs, visit https://www.brchs.com/services/school-based-health/</p> <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)</p> <p><u>Immunizations</u></p> <p><u>Health Assessment</u></p> <p><u>Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting</u></p>



With the passage of N.C.G.S. 115C-375.4, the School District must provide families with information on Influenza and Meningococcal diseases and the vaccines that are available to prevent each. Influenza ("flu") is caused by a virus that spreads from infected persons to the nose or throat of others. Influenza can cause fever, sore throat, chills, coughs, headache, and muscle aches.

Anyone can get influenza. Most people are ill with flu for only a few days, but some get much sicker and may need to be hospitalized. Influenza causes an average of 36,000 deaths each year in the U.S., mostly among the elderly.

Influenza vaccine is available in two types. Inactivated (killed) flu vaccine, given as a shot, has been used in the U.S. for many years. A live, weakened vaccine, FluMist, was licensed in 2003. It is sprayed into the nostrils. It is available for persons aged 5-49 years of age. Influenza viruses change often. Therefore, the influenza vaccine is updated every year. Protection develops in about two weeks after getting the shot and may last up to a year. The best time to get the vaccine is in October or November. Contact your local health department or physician for more details on cost and time the vaccine will be available.

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings. Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections. About 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Ten to fifteen percent of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another 10% have chronic complications. It is most common in infants less than one year of age, international travelers, and people with certain medical conditions. College freshmen, particularly those who live in dormitories, have a slightly increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Learn more about these vaccines by consulting with your family doctor or nurse or contacting the Jackson County Department of Public Health at (828) 586-8994 or contacting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at 1-800-232-2522 (English) or 1-800-232-0233 (Spanish) or visiting <http://cdc.gov/vaccines/>.