



**WATAUGA COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-7190

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA
February 10, 2025

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| 4:45 p.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER | Board Chair |
| 4:48 p.m. | 2. CLOSED SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of the Minutes for 1/13/2025B. Reportable Offenses – N.C.G.S.115C-288(g)C. Student Records - N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(1)D. Personnel – N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6)E. Attorney-Client - N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) | Board Chair |
| 6:00 p.m. | 3. OPEN SESSION CALL TO ORDER/
WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE | Board Chair |
| 6:03 p.m. | 4. DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA | Board Chair |
| 6:05 p.m. | 5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT | Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| 6:10 p.m. | 6. VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL UPDATE | Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| 6:15 p.m. | 7. STUDENTS’ REPORT | Ms. Athena Elliott
Ms. Mia Llibre |
| 6:20 p.m. | 8. PUBLIC RECOGNITION <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ District Spelling Bee Winner: Lauren McCoy★ Watauga High School Playmakers★ Special Donation | Ms. Meredith Jones
Dr. Leslie Alexander
Mr. Harry Corpening |
| 6:45 p.m. | 9. WCS INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOLS | Dr. Leslie Alexander |

7:05 p.m.	10. PUBLIC COMMENT	Board Chair
7:20 p.m.	11. RESOLUTION (To Authorize a Two-Week Weather Waiver for the Calendar Start Date for the WCS District)	Dr. Leslie Alexander
7:30 p.m.	12. REDUCTION IN FORCE SELECTION CRITERIA	Dr. Leslie Alexander
7:40 p.m.	13. CONSENT AGENDA A. Approval of the Minutes for 1/9/2025 and 1/13/2025 B. Declaration of Surplus C. Approval of Second Administration Summer Plan D. Personnel Report	Dr. Leslie Alexander
7:43 p.m.	14. POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR SECOND READ • 4320: Tobacco Products ~ Students • 4329/7311: Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited • 5022: Registered Sex Offenders • 5026/7250: Smoking and Tobacco Products • 5150 (New): Reporting to External Agencies • 6120: Student Health Services • 6140: Student Wellness	Dr. Wayne Eberle
7:48 p.m.	15. POLICIES TO RESCIND • 1725/4035/7236: Interim Title IX Sex Discrimination - Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process • 1726/4036/7237: Interim Title IX Sex Discrimination - Grievance Process	Dr. Wayne Eberle
7:53 p.m.	16. POLICY: REVISED FOR FIRST READ • 6301: Classified Staff Bus Driving Requirements	Dr. Chris Blanton
8:00 p.m.	17. BOARD OPERATIONS	Board Chair
8:10 p.m.	18. BOARD COMMENTS	Board Chair
8:15 p.m.	19. ADJOURNMENT	Board Chair



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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TWO-WEEK WEATHER WAIVER FOR THE CALENDAR START DATE FOR THE WATAUGA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Watauga County School District acknowledges that student learning loss occurred from lost instructional time due to Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, the Watauga County School District has historically faced significant instructional disruptions due to weather, missing an average of 11.5 school days each year due to inclement weather over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, as of February 10, 2025, Watauga County Schools has experienced a total of 30 days without in-person instruction this year, including 10 remote learning days;

WHEREAS, the Watauga County Board of Education believes that in-person learning is critical for student achievement, and that minimizing future loss of instructional time due to inclement weather is essential; and

WHEREAS, the Watauga County School District currently receives a one-week waiver for the school calendar start date, and believes that this waiver is insufficient to provide instructional days/hours needed to meet student academic needs.

NOW THEREFORE, the Watauga County Board of Education formally requests authorization for a two-week weather waiver for the calendar start date for Watauga County Schools to ensure a more effective and reliable academic schedule for students.

Read and approved at the regular meeting of the Watauga Board of Education, this 10th day of February, 2025.

On behalf of the Board of Education:

Dr. Gary Childers, *Chair*

Date

Attest:

Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent and
Ex Officio Secretary to the Board*

Date



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To: Watauga County Board of Education
From: Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*
Date: February 10, 2025
Subject: **Reduction in Force (RIF) Selection Criteria**

Due to budgetary constraints, Watauga County Schools must reduce personnel costs for the 2025-2026 school year. As stated in Policy 7920, “primary consideration in any reduction in force will be the maintenance of a sound and balanced educational program that is consistent with the functions and responsibilities of the school system.” Below is a description of the plan that will be implemented to reduce personnel costs. The reductions may be achieved through a combination of the non-renewal of contracts and/or a reduction in force.

As Superintendent, I request that the Board approve this plan, understanding that the administration will strive to achieve the necessary right-sizing through attrition and non-renewals.

Contract Non-Renewal for Financial Reasons

1. A contract that is expiring on or before June 30, 2025 can be non-renewed due to insufficient funding. This is not a RIF (per Policy 7920).
 - a. The employee should be able to receive one year of state health coverage since the “reason for separation” is “financial exigency.” This would apply to a non-renewal and to an employee who elects to resign after being notified of the recommendation for non-renewal.
 - b. Employees have been asked to notify Assistant Superintendent Dr. Chris Blanton as soon as possible if they intend to retire at the end of this school year.
2. Following attrition and non-renewals, the Superintendent will determine the weight to apply to each criteria based on the needs of the district. Criteria for the selection of teachers for non-renewal are:

- work performance and evaluation ratings
- EVAAS data (if applicable)
- areas of licensure
- program enrollment
- service in extra duty positions and ability to fill such positions
- length of service, with higher priority given to service in this school system
- degree level

Reduction in Force

1. Position Reduction of Certified Staff: The Superintendent determines which employees will be subject to the RIF based on programmatic needs.
 - a. At this step, employees should be given time to consider resignation before getting an official letter.
 - b. Employees can resign and receive health coverage as stated for contract non-renewals.
 - c. If the employee requests an individual hearing, the Board must provide this.
 - d. For all employees who do not request an individual hearing, the Superintendent will present the final list of named employees to be included in the RIF, and then the Board will vote.
 - e. Employees will be allowed to apply for vacancies (for which they have appropriate certification) in the future.
2. Position Reduction of Classified Staff: The Superintendent determines which employees will be subject to the RIF based on programmatic needs.
 - a. At this step, employees should be given time to consider resignation before getting an official letter.
 - b. Employees can resign and receive health coverage as stated for contract non-renewals.
 - c. There is not a right to a hearing, and the Board will vote on the final list of named employees. By law, the primary criteria for the RIF of a classified employee is “demonstrated job performance.”



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WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DATE: January 9, 2025

PRESENT:

- Gary Childers, Alison Idol, Jay Fenwick, Adam Hege, Charlotte Mizelle Lloyd, *BOE Members*
- Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*
- Dr. Chris Blanton, *Assistant Superintendent*
- Mr. Chris Campbell, *Board Attorney*
- Mr. Joseph Nash, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Mr. Phil Norman, *Chief Academic Officer*

TIME: 12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Boone Area Chamber of Commerce

CALL TO ORDER

A special work session was held at the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce for Board members to receive training and to collaborate more in-depth on several prioritized topics. Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

ETHICS TRAINING

Board Attorney Chris Campbell provided two hours of required ethics training that covered laws and principles that govern conflicts of interest and standards of conduct.

VALLE CRUCIS: NEXT STEPS

Dr. Leslie Alexander shared possible project ideas, cost models of renovation and new construction, and potential FEMA assistance.

CULTURE

Dr. Alexander provided a brief overview of the current status of the culture of our district and schools, and the district's priorities to maintain a positive culture.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Mr. Phil Norman facilitated this session designed to help Board members gain a better understanding of the current efforts to promote early literacy, and to be aware of priority professional development.

The academic essential processes for 2024-25 include:

- MTSS framework
- Implementation of New K-8 core Tier 1 ELA curriculum
- Implementation of a newly-created Tier 2 math intervention resource matrix
- Continued professional learning and resource acquisition for reading intervention at the Tier 2 level
- New core Tier 1 collaborative structures
- Assessment of our district's MTSS strengths and needs to further refine efforts
- Hurricane recovery: Priority standards and pacing
- WHS accreditation and PLT process

The professional development essentials for 2024-25 include:

- ELA curriculum implementation CKLA/ Amplify
- Individual Problem-solving teams/Data teams
- LETRS implementation
- Tiered support for schools and teachers

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Chris Blanton talked about current recruitment and development efforts, and he discussed how personnel costs impact budget deficits.

BUDGET AND HR STAFFING

Mr. Joe Nash shared a brief history and overview of WCS Finances, as well as actions being implemented to more closely monitor finances. Dr. Blanton discussed updates regarding the upcoming hiring season.

ADJOURNMENT

Jay Fenwick made a motion at 5:08 p.m. to adjourn. Charlotte Mizelle Lloyd seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Gary L. Childers, *Board of Education Chair*

Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*



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WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DATE: January 13, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Margaret E. Gragg Education Center

PRESENT:

- Gary Childers, Jay Fenwick, Adam Hege, Alison Idol, Charlotte Mizelle Lloyd, *BOE Members*
- Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*
- Mr. Chris Campbell, *Board Attorney*
- Athena Elliott and Mia Llibre, *Student Board Representatives*

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dr. Childers welcomed those attending the meeting. He began by acknowledging the loss of former educator Mary Hazel Mast, who taught at Valle Crucis School and had a great impact on the school district and community. He then requested to observe a moment of silence.

DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

There was no discussion or adjustment to the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Alexander shared that WCS has used five remote days and one "no day" since the holiday break. These days must be utilized because they allow protection of the school calendar. If remote days are not used, days would need to be taken from spring break, days would have to be added at the end of the school calendar, and/or school would need to be held on Saturdays. She thanked teachers for the time they spend preparing the lessons, and she thanked parents for encouraging their students to stay engaged during remote learning.
- She gave a special shout out to the Watauga High Playmakers and to theatre teachers Sarah Miller and

Zach Walker. Dr. Alexander attended their performance of “Surge” in Raleigh for the North Carolina State Board of Education, and she said they “thoughtfully explained the impact of Hurricane Helene on their families and our community, and how that influenced the creation of the production.”

VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL UPDATE

Area A: Cafeteria/Kitchen; Gym

Area B: Administrative Offices; Band

Area C: Classrooms

Sitework has resumed, and the storm drain system is being finished. Preparation for the paving phase will begin after that. HVAC units have been started and are currently heating the building. Flooring is progressing, and the gym flooring will begin in mid-February. The kitchen cooler/freezer boxes have been installed, and the installation of kitchen equipment will begin around the first of February. The septic system has been started, and cabinetry and millwork will start on January 13th. A designated group will tour the new school site on January 23rd.

STUDENTS’ REPORT

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) has opened for students applying to colleges and universities. The program supports education with eligibility for grants, scholarships, work-study programs, and loans for tuition. The first round of local scholarships for Watauga High School seniors has also been posted.
- WHS students have been eager to hear how the exam schedule will be impacted after all of the inclement weather.
- The Ski and Snowboard Club at Watauga High School brings students together to enjoy winter fun at Appalachian Mountain Ski Resort, and discounted rates are offered on Friday nights to students and teachers. The club is planning a trip to Snowshoe Mountain Resort in West Virginia, which will be supported by raffles/fundraisers in partnership with “Come Back Shack” and “Edge of the World.”
- The WHS Playmakers recently performed “Surge” for the North Carolina Board of Education. This production, which has been able to spread awareness about Hurricane Helene’s destruction to the community, resulted in a multitude of awards at the state level.

SPECIAL/PUBLIC RECOGNITION

School Board Appreciation Month

January is School Board Appreciation Month in North Carolina, and the Watauga County Board of Education consists of a wonderful team who govern our school district with dedication, leadership, and unwavering support. Dr. Alexander expressed that Watauga County is “very blessed to have an amazing School Board,” which includes the following members:

- Gary Childers, *Board Chair*
- Alison Idol, *Board Vice-Chair*
- Jay Fenwick
- Adam Hege

- Charlotte Mizelle Lloyd

The Student Board Representatives are Mia Llibre (12th Grade) and Athena Elliott (11th Grade).

Bright Ideas Grant Recipients

Now in its 30th year of helping teachers provide creative learning projects for students, Blue Ridge Energy awarded \$8,380 in Bright Ideas Grants to eleven educators in Watauga County Schools. WCS truly appreciates Blue Ridge Energy for being such a tremendous partner in awarding these grants to teachers who have such innovative ideas. The recipients are:

- BETH DISHMAN (Hardin Park): \$500 for “Core Connection for Life Skills”
- TERRY GUNNELL-BECK (Hardin Park): \$720 for “Empowering 5th Grade Voices: Podcasting in Social Studies”
- ELISA LOVEJOY (Valle Crucis): \$1,356 for “A Computer Science Flock”
- ALLYSON MCFALLS (Blowing Rock): \$817 for “Engaging Students in the Art and Science of Critical Observation and Inquiry”
- MONICA PARSONS (Hardin Park): \$914 for “Innovative Learning through 3D Printing”
- CONNIE PEELER (Hardin Park): \$353 for “Pickleball for ALL”
- JENNY PHILLIPS (Parkway): \$1,285 for “Lego Robotics Reboot”
- LINDSEY POSTLETHWAIT (Valle Crucis): \$615 for “Cardboard Construction”
- MISTY PRITCHARD (Green Valley): \$891 for “Food for Thought”
- KEVIN SHAW (Watauga High School): \$364 for “Exploring Atoms, Isotopes, and Ions”
- SHELLY WARNICK (Hardin Park): \$565 for “Understanding the Life Cycle of Chicks”

National Board Certified Teachers (2022-23 and 2023-24 School Years)

National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education, and the process is based on high and rigorous standards that evaluate teaching practice through performance-based assessments. Watauga County Schools has 101 National Board Certified Teachers, which is one of the highest rates in the United States.

Keana Triplett, National Board Support Coordinator, shared comments before recognizing the district’s National Board Certified Teachers for 2023 and 2024, as well as the district’s National Board teachers who maintained their certification in 2023 and 2024. Ms. Triplett said, “This process is not to be taken lightly. It requires dedication, determination, and perseverance, and it is the highest certification process for teachers in the nation.” She thanked the following groups of people:

- Board of Education for their support and commitment to helping teachers achieve this significant certification, specifically through funding of the Watauga County Schools National Board Support Team (Jeanie Hicks, Allyson McFalls, Barbara Myers, Keana Triplett, and Jamie Wilson);
- County Commissioners who have graciously provided funds for initial candidate reimbursement once certification is achieved (for up to 20 teachers each year);
- Stamey family for their support of teachers pursuing National Board Certification through the Tamara Stamey Scholarship Fund;
- Family members of the National Board Teachers for their unwavering support.

2022-23 Initially-Certified National Board Teachers:

- Alice Campbell (Parkway)
- Joseph Gragg (WHS)
- Emily Grogan (WHS)
- Susan Irving (WHS)
- Megan Szep (Hardin Park)
- Chris Tarnowski (WHS)
- Jacob Wallace (WHS)
- Heather Windish (WHS)

2022-23 Maintenance of Certification Teachers:

- Sarah Cardwell (WVA)
- Leslie Hall (Cove Creek)
- Amanda Huff (WHS)
- Elisa Lovejoy (Valle Crucis)
- Connie Peeler (Hardin Park)
- Melanie Rudolph (Valle Crucis)
- Sandra Ruppert (Green Valley)
- Erin Selle (Hardin Park)
- Keana Triplett (WHS)
- April Wilkinson (WHS)

2023-24 Initially-Certified National Board Teachers:

- Kylie Bolick (Cove Creek)
- Lisa Clinard (Blowing Rock)
- Kalie Eppley (Hardin Park)
- McKenzie Gheesling (Bethel)
- Laurie Gill (Blowing Rock)
- Keri Hemrick (WHS)
- Misty Hyler (Central Office)
- Cindy Lentz (WHS)
- Kelly MacDonald (Green Valley)
- Daniel Machon (WHS)
- Laurie Nixon (WHS)
- Bryson Payne (WHS)
- Amber Smith (WHS)

2023-24 Maintenance of Certification Teachers:

- Crystal Norris (Hardin Park)
- Meghan Scott (Hardin Park)
- Anne Sukow (Bethel)

NBPTS Tamara Stamey Memorial Fund Scholarship Recipients

Former Superintendent Dr. Scott Elliott shared comments about Tamara Stamey's impact and the

purpose of the scholarship. He said, “Tamara was a teacher's teacher and always advocated for our teachers and their needs. She was selected for the role of Chief Academic Officer because of our faith in her to guide our instructional program, support our teachers, and ensure that our students received the highest quality education possible. She was passionate about National Board certification and spoke often about how it challenged her to be a better educator.”

To celebrate and remember her legacy, the Stamey family established the Tamara Stamey Memorial Scholarship for National Board Certification in 2023 to provide deserving educators with coverage of the full cost of certification fees, which is approximately \$2,000 per teacher. The Selection Committee consists of Dr. Scott Elliott (former Superintendent of WCS), Tracy Markland (former WCS teacher and Stamey family member), and Sarah Miller (NBCT and close friend of Ms. Stamey), and they were present to congratulate the second annual cohort of recipients of the Tamara Stamey Memorial Scholarship:

- KIRSTEN HODGES (Parkway/School Counselor)
- SAMUEL VINING (Watauga High School/Social Studies Teacher)
- TONYA WARD (Blowing Rock/First Grade Teacher)
- ANGELA WATSON (Blowing Rock/Middle School Math and Social Studies Teacher)

Dr. Alexander is “grateful to the Stamey family for their continued support of this important work.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no citizens who made public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for 12/9/2024
- B. Field Trip Request
- C. Declaration of Surplus
- D. 2024-25 Budget Amendment #3
- E. Personnel Report

Alison Idol made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Charlotte Mizelle Lloyd seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Dr. Childers commended Chief Financial Officer Joseph Nash and his team for their attention to detail with the budget and any amendments.

POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ

- 4320: Tobacco Products ~ Students
- 4329/7311: Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited
- 5022: Registered Sex Offenders
- 5026/7250: Smoking and Tobacco Products
- 5150 (New): Reporting to External Agencies
- 6120: Student Health Services
- 6140: Student Wellness

Dr. Wayne Eberle, Director of Accountability and Federal Programs, presented the policies for first read. No action was taken.

Dr. Childers would like to see Policy 1370: *Board Committees* updated. He also commended Dr. Eberle for his organization and navigation of the policies.

BOARD OPERATIONS

- Dr. Childers reviewed the following 2024-25 BOE Committee Assignments:
 - Calendar: Adam Hege
 - Elementary Curriculum: Charlotte Mizelle-Lloyd
 - Facilities: Gary Childers & Alison Idol
 - Finance: Gary Childers & Jay Fenwick
 - High School Curriculum: Gary Childers
 - Media & Technology Advisory: Jay Fenwick
 - Safe Schools: Adam Hege
 - School Health Advisory: Charlotte Mizelle-Lloyd
 - Teacher of the Year: Alison Idol
 - Watauga Education Foundation: Alison Idol
- All of the Board members and Dr. Alexander will attend Core Training in Asheville January 29-30.
- NCSBA Executive Director Leanne Winner asked Dr. Childers to be a trustee with the North Carolina School Boards Trust, and he has agreed to serve.

BOARD COMMENTS

Jay Fenwick and other BOE members thanked Board Attorney Chris Campbell and the members of the District Leadership Team who presented at the Board work session held on January 9th.

ADJOURNMENT

Jay Fenwick made a motion to adjourn, Charlotte Mizelle Lloyd seconded, and it was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Dr. Gary L. Childers, *Board of Education Chair*

Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*

Declaration of Surplus Items - FEBRUARY

Date Approved: _____

Bethel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Blowing Rock

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE		1 FAN FROM SPRAY BOOTH		1
	1		0	1

Cove Creek

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Green Valley

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE		1 AIR PURIFIER- MEDIFY		1
	1		0	1

Hardin Park

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Mabel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Parkway

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
700696	1	CALCULATOR- TI-83		1
701416	1	CALCULATOR- TI-83		1
701354	1	CALCULATOR- TI-83		1
700321	1	CALCULATOR- TI-83		1
701312	1	CALCULATOR- TI-83		1
	5		0	5

Valle Crucis

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Watauga High School

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
906754	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
29445	1	LAPTOP- HP PROBOOK	1	
	2		1	1

Central Office

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE	1	CALCULATOR- 10KEY- CANON P23		1
	1		0	1

Technology Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
50967	1	PRINTER- HP LASERJET 1320		1
35237	1	LAPTOP- HP ELITEBOOK	1	
52178	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 300e		1
52290	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 300e		1
35060	1	LAPTOP- HP ELITEBOOK	1	
34849	1	LAPTOP- HP ELITEBOOK	1	
100076	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
34210	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 100e		1
34681	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 100e	1	
300143	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
35528	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 100e		1
36769	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP 11MK		1
36596	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP 11MK		1
51742	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO YOGA		1
37730	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP		1
25621	1	IPAD-16 GB		1
34969	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 100e		1
34043	1	CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 100e		1
28770	1	ANTENNA- DHTV		1
50565	1	SWITCH- 24 PORT- NETGEAR	1	
600947	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
600948	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
600949	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
600950	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
600951	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
NONE	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
80069	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
NONE	1	TV- APPLE- 3RD GEN		1
NONE	1	HARD DRIVE- VERBATIM		1
NONE	1	NETWORK EXTENDER- VERIZON SAMSUNG		1
80551	1	PROBOOK- 43 G	1	
80538	1	PROBOOK- 43 G	1	
80537	1	PROBOOK- 43 G	1	
80521	1	PROBOOK- 43 G	1	
80543	1	PROBOOK- 43 G	1	

80533	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80553	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80522	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80548	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80540	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80528	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80536	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80530	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80531	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80542	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80523	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80546	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80532	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80539	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80526	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80524	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80549	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80518	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80552	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80545	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80525	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80527	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80544	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80519	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80556	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80535	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80541	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80520	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80550	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80554	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80529	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80534	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80547	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1
80517	1 PROBOOK- 43 G	1

Transportation Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Maintenance Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
301396	1	VACUUM- WET/DRY		1
200250	1	VACUUM		1
301106	1	VACUUM		1
300658	1	FLOOR BUFFER		1
300907	1	FLOOR BURNISHER		1
301107	1	VACUUM		1
	6		0	6

Child Nutrition

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-7190

Purpose: Provide additional remedial support for students grades 3-8 who were not proficient on *End of Grade* assessments.

Place: Students will participate in the second administration at their home school.

Transportation and Snack: Transportation will be provided in the form of convenience or satellite stops. Snacks will be provided before the assessment.

Courses for Remediation: Remediation will take place in Math in grades 3-8 and Reading (ELA) in grades 4-8. Science in grades 5 and 8 are not eligible this year due to NCCPI's Standard Setting Process for new assessments.

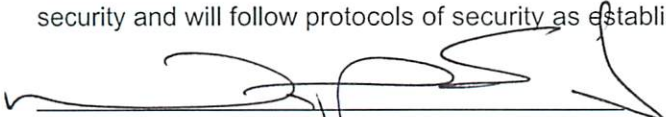
Eligible Students: Students not scoring levels 3, 4 or 5 on spring End of Grade assessments, are strongly encouraged although not required to attend. Participation is optional.

Time: The assessment will take place beginning at 8:30A following the end of the regular calendar year. Dates are still TBD due to inclement weather.

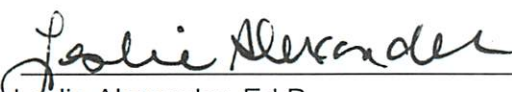
Mode: Online

Staffing: Each school will identify effective teachers to lead the remediation efforts in each grade and subject area. School Test Coordinators will be responsible for setting up test sessions and securing proctors.

Test Security: The Director of Accountability and Federal Programs will be responsible for training each schools' test coordinators in a train the trainer model. District and school level personnel will be responsible for maintaining test security and will follow protocols of security as established during regular test administrations.


Wayne M. Eberle II, Ed.D.
Director of Accountability and Federal Programs
Watauga County Schools

10 Feb 2025
Date


Leslie Alexander, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Watauga County Schools

2/10/25
Date

Gary Childers, Ed.D., Chair
Watauga County Schools Board of Education

Date



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-7190

10 February 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Watauga County Schools is offering an opportunity to students in grades 3-8 who do not pass the North Carolina End-Of-Grade (EOG) Test in Mathematics or in grades 4-8 who do not pass Reading (ELA). Students who are either identified by their principal as being eligible, or score within three scale score points of a Level III in Math or ELA, will be invited to participate in a second administration of the test.

Bus transportation will be provided on these days in the form of convenience or satellite stops. Information about the location of these stops will be provided to parents of eligible students prior to the testing date.

The second administration will take place at your child's school following an opportunity for remediation before the end of the school year. The assessments will take place following the end of the school calendar year with firm dates forthcoming following any inclement weather dates. If your child is eligible for a second administration in more than one subject and would like to test in one day, arrangements may be made to accommodate this request. Testing will begin each day at 8:30 a.m. Students will be provided a snack before each test.

Following the second administration, the higher of the student's two assessments will be used as a measure of your child's proficiency. You will also receive an updated and revised Individual Student Report (ISR).

Please keep in mind this is an OPTIONAL opportunity. We want all our students to put forth maximum effort and, more importantly, be able to show what they know and have learned. Giving students an option for a second administration will ensure they have the opportunity to do their best.

Should your child be eligible for this opportunity, follow up communication will be provided to you after the first administration of the EOG by your child's teacher and/or principal.

If you have additional questions about this opportunity and eligibility, please contact your child's principal and/or teacher.

Thank you for allowing Watauga County Schools to serve you and your child as we continue to strive to be the best place to learn and work in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Eberle II, Ed.D.
Director of Accountability and School Improvement



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-7190

10 de febrero del 2025

Estimados Padres de Familia y Guardianes Legales,

Las Escuelas del Condado de Watauga está ofreciendo una oportunidad a los/las estudiantes de 3^{ro} a 8^{vo} grado, que no pasen la Evaluación de Fin de Grado (EOG) de Carolina del Norte en Matemáticas o los grados de 4^{to} a 8^{vo} en Lectura (ELA). Los estudiantes que sean identificados por su director como elegibles o saquen una calificación dentro de tres puntos del puntaje de escala para lograr un Nivel III en Matemáticas, y/o Lectura (ELA), serán invitados(as) a participar en una segunda administración de la evaluación.

Se proporcionará transporte en el autobús escolar durante estos días en la forma de conveniencia o paradas escogidas. La información sobre la ubicación de estas paradas será proporcionada a los padres de los(as) estudiantes elegibles.

La segunda administración se llevará a cabo en la escuela de su niño(a) después de una oportunidad de remediación antes del fin de año escolar. La evaluación se llevará a cabo después del fin de año del calendario, con fechas establecidas a seguir, después de contar los días de inclemencias climáticas. Si su niño(a) es elegible para una segunda administración en ambas áreas y desea realizar las evaluaciones en un solo día, se pueden hacer arreglos para acomodar esta solicitud. Las evaluaciones comenzarán cada día a las 8:30 am. Los estudiantes recibirán una merienda antes de cada evaluación.

Después de la segunda administración, la calificación más alta, obtenida de las dos evaluaciones, se usará como una medida del dominio de su hijo(a). Usted también recibirá un Individual Student Report (ISR)/Informe Estudiantil Individual revisado y actualizado.

Por favor tenga en cuenta que esta es una oportunidad OPCIONAL. Nosotros queremos que todos(as) nuestros(as) estudiantes pongan su máximo esfuerzo y, lo que es más importante, que puedan mostrar lo que saben y lo que han aprendido. El brindarle a los/las estudiantes una opción para una segunda administración garantizará que tengan la oportunidad de dar lo mejor de sí mismos.

Si su niño(a) es elegible para esta oportunidad, se le proporcionará comunicación de seguimiento de parte de el/la maestro(a) y/o director(a) de su niño(a) después de la primera administración de las evaluaciones(EOG).

Si usted tiene preguntas adicionales sobre esta oportunidad y elegibilidad, por favor contacte a su director(a) y/o maestro(a).

Gracias por permitir que las Escuelas del Condado de Watauga les sirvan a usted y a su niño(a) mientras continuamos esforzándonos por ser el mejor lugar para aprender y trabajar en Carolina del Norte.

Sinceramente,



Wayne M. Eberle II, Ed.D.
Director de Responsabilidad y Mejoría Escolar

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) is committed to creating safe, orderly, clean and inviting schools for all students and staff. To this end, the board supports state laws that prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to minors and that prohibit the use of tobacco products by minors. The board also supports state and federal laws that prohibit the use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board. For the purposes of this policy, the term “tobacco product” means any product that contains ~~or that is made or derived from tobacco~~ and is intended for human consumption,. The term “tobacco product” also includes alternative nicotine products (noncombustible products that contain nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, but do not contain tobacco and are intended for human consumption whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved, ingested, or by other means), consumable products (nicotine liquid solutions or other materials containing nicotine that is depleted as a vapor product is used), vapor products (noncombustible products that employ a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat consumable products) including all ~~lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, , electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, and electronic pipes, and components of vapor products vaporizers, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine.~~

A. PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

In support of the board’s commitments and state and federal law, students are prohibited from using, possessing or displaying any tobacco product (1) in any school building, on any school campus, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board, including school vehicles; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including during school trips.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use, possession or display of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that the activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting tobacco.

B. CONSEQUENCES

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy shall be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

In determining appropriate consequences for violations of this policy, school officials are encouraged to identify programs or opportunities that will provide students with a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use, the hazards of secondhand smoke, and the impact of tobacco use on efforts to provide a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment.

C. SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

The administration shall consult with the county health department and other appropriate organizations to provide students with information and access to support systems and programs to encourage students to abstain from the use of tobacco products. The school system may, from time to time, provide free non-smoking programs and services to its students.

D. NOTICE

Students will be provided with notice of the information in this policy through the Code of Student Conduct, student handbooks, or other means identified by the principal. In addition, the principal shall post signs in a manner and at locations that adequately notify students, school personnel, and visitors about prohibitions against the use of tobacco products in all school facilities, on all school grounds, and at all school-sponsored events.

Legal References: Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. 6081 *et seq.*; 21 U.S.C. 321 (rr); 21 C.F.R. 1100 *et seq.*; G.S. 14-313; 115C-47, -288, -307, -390.2, -407

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Smoking and Tobacco Products (policy 5026/7250)

Adopted: October 13, 2014

Revised: January 11, 2016; April 9, 2018 (Legal references only); DATE

Replaces: Policy 5.07.60, Tobacco Use

BULLYING AND HARASSING BEHAVIOR PROHIBITED

Policy Code: **4329/7311**

The board is committed to providing a safe, inviting, and civil educational environment for all students, employees, and other members of the school community. The board expects all students, employees, volunteers, and visitors to behave in a manner consistent with that goal. The board recognizes that bullying and harassing behavior creates an atmosphere of intimidation and fear, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious misconduct or to violence. Accordingly, the board prohibits all forms of bullying and harassing behavior, including encouragement of such behavior, by students, employees, volunteers, and visitors. "Visitors" includes parents and other family members and individuals from the community, as well as vendors, contractors, and other persons doing business with or performing services for the school system.

This policy prohibits bullying and harassing behavior, or the encouragement of bullying or harassing behavior, that takes place (1) in any school building or on any school premises before, during or after school hours; (2) on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity; (3) at any bus stop; (4) during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity; (5) through the use of school system technological resources; (6) at any time or place when the student, employee, or other person is subject to the authority of school personnel; or (67) at any time or place when the bullying has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools.

This policy is not intended to prohibit expression of religious, philosophical, social, or political views, provided that the expression does not substantially disrupt the educational environment.

A. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy applies to bullying and harassing behavior that is not otherwise prohibited by the following board policies that address discriminatory harassment in violation of federal law:

- Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law, policy 1710/4020/7230 (prohibiting harassment based on federally protected characteristics, such as race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (40 or older), religion, military affiliation, or genetic information)
- Title IX Sexual ~~Discrimination~~Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting ~~Process~~Grievance Procedures, policy 1725/4035/7236 (prohibiting sex-based harassment)
- ~~Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace, policy 7232 (prohibiting harassment of employees and applicants based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, military affiliation, or genetic information)~~

Individuals who wish to report bullying or harassing behavior that is based on sex, race,

color, national origin, disability, religion, or other personal characteristic addressed by the policies above should refer to and follow the reporting processes provided in those policies.

Conduct that may constitute discriminatory harassment under federal law must be addressed first in accordance with the requirements of the applicable policy(ies) listed above. If subsequently, the conduct is determined not to rise to the level of discriminatory harassment prohibited by those policies, the conduct may be addressed under this policy. Conduct that does not rise to the level of bullying or harassing behavior as defined and prohibited in this policy may nevertheless violate other board policies or school rules.

B. CONDUCT THAT IS CONSIDERED BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

1. Bullying is deliberate conduct intended to harm another person or group of persons. It is characterized by repeated unwanted aggressive behavior that typically involves a real or perceived imbalance of power, such as a difference in physical size, strength, social standing, intellectual ability, or authority. It may consist of either physical, verbal, or nonverbal behavior. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying that is carried out using electronic communication media, such as words, action, or conduct conveyed through email, instant messages, text messages, tweets, blogs, photo or video sharing, chat rooms, or websites, and may exist in the absence of a power imbalance typical of other forms of bullying.
2. Harassing behavior is conduct that is intimidating, hostile, or abusive, or is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Harassing behavior may violate this policy even if no harm is intended to the target and no power imbalance is evident.
3. Bullying or harassing behavior includes conduct that is, or reasonably appears to be, motivated by actual or perceived differentiating personal characteristics, or by a person's association with someone who has or is perceived to have a differentiating personal characteristic. Differentiating personal characteristics include, but are not limited to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, socioeconomic status, academic status, gender identity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability. Bullying and harassing behavior can violate this policy regardless of a student's motivation.
4. Examples of behavior that may constitute bullying or harassing behavior are repeated acts of disrespect, intimidation, or threats, such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, epithets, derogatory or lewd comments, spreading rumors, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, assault, offensive touching, physical interference with normal work or movement, visual insults, such as derogatory posters or cartoons, and sharing intimate photos or video of a person or sharing photos or videos that may subject a person to ridicule or insult.
5. Other behaviors that may constitute bullying or harassing behavior under this policy are deliberate, unwelcome touching that has sexual connotations or is of a sexual nature, pressure for sexual activity, offensive sexual flirtations, advances or

propositions, verbal remarks about an individual's body, sexually degrading words used toward an individual or to describe an individual, or the display of sexually suggestive drawings, objects, pictures, or written materials.

6. These examples are not exhaustive but are intended to illustrate the wide range of behavior that may constitute bullying and harassing behavior.
7. Conduct such as the following is not considered bullying or harassing behavior: legitimate pedagogical techniques, the exercise of legitimate authority, and academic or work performance monitoring and evaluation.

C. WHEN BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR VIOLATES THIS POLICY

Not all conduct that may be described as bullying or harassing behavior violates this policy. Bullying or harassing behavior violates this policy when any pattern of repeated gestures or written, electronic, or verbal communications, or any physical act or threatening communication:

1. places a student, an employee, or other person in actual and reasonable fear of harm to their person or property; or
2. creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits.

"Hostile environment" means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

The definition of bullying and harassing behavior in this section is intended to be no less inclusive than the definition of bullying and harassing behavior in G.S. 115C-407.15.

Bullying or harassing behavior based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion, age (40 or older), military affiliation, or genetic information may also constitute discriminatory harassment in violation of federal law and other board policies as described in Section A, above.

D. REPORTING BULLYING AND HARASSING BEHAVIOR

1. Reports by Students and/or Parents and Guardians
 - a. The board encourages students or parents/guardians of students who have been the victim of or who have witnessed bullying or harassing behavior in violation of this policy to immediately report such incidents to a teacher, counselor, coach, assistant principal, or the principal.

- b. Reports may be made orally or in writing and may be made anonymously.
- c. All reports of serious violations and complaints made under this policy will be investigated expeditiously. Anonymous reports will be investigated to the extent reasonably possible under the circumstances.
- d. If, at any time, school officials determine that the alleged bullying or harassing behavior appears to be based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, ~~or religion~~, age (40 or older), military affiliation, or genetic information, the matter will be investigated in accordance with the applicable policy listed in Section A above.

2. Mandatory Reporting by School Employees

An employee who witnesses or who has reliable information that a student or other individual has been bullied or harassed in violation of this policy must report the incident to his or her supervisor or to the building principal immediately. If ~~sex-based~~ harassment is suspected, the employee also must report the incident to the Title IX coordinator. An employee who does not promptly report possible bullying or harassing behavior will be subject to disciplinary action.

3. Reporting by Other Third Parties

Other members of the school community may report incidents of bullying or harassment to the school principal or the superintendent or designee.

4. Reporting False Allegations

It is a violation of board policy to knowingly report false allegations of bullying or harassing behavior. A student or employee found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to disciplinary action.

E. REPORTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR BASED ON A FEDERALLY PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC ~~SEX, RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, DISABILITY, OR RELIGION~~

Bullying or harassing behavior that is based on a federally protected characteristic, such as sex, race, color, national origin, disability, ~~or religion~~, age (40 or older), military affiliation, or genetic information, may constitute discriminatory harassment that is a violation of the individual's civil rights. A school employee who receives a report of bullying or harassing behavior that may constitute ~~sex-based~~ harassment must immediately contact the Title IX coordinator. If the reported behavior appears to be based on any other ~~such personal~~ federally protected characteristic, the employee must immediately notify the appropriate civil rights coordinator designated in policy 1710/4020/7230, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law. Uncertainty as to whether alleged bullying or harassing behavior is based on ~~sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion~~ a federally protected characteristic should be resolved by notifying the Title IX Coordinator.

F. RESPONSE TO REPORTS OF BULLYING OR HARASSING BEHAVIOR

1. Reports of bullying and harassing behavior or the encouragement of such behavior under this policy will be investigated promptly by the principal or ~~the principal's designee or site supervisor~~ and addressed in accordance with this policy and policy 4340, School-Level Investigations, when appropriate. If the principal or site supervisor is the alleged perpetrator, the superintendent will designate an appropriate investigator.
2. If at any time before, during, or after the investigation under this policy, the ~~principal or designee investigator~~ determines or suspects that the alleged bullying or harassing behavior is based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or religion, the ~~principal or designee investigator~~ shall notify the appropriate civil rights coordinator and proceed in accordance with the applicable board policy as described in Section A, above. However, referral to the civil rights coordinator will not preclude appropriate disciplinary consequences for a violation of this policy if, following the designated investigation and resolution process under the appropriate board policy, the behavior is determined not to constitute discriminatory harassment in violation of federal law.
3. No reprisals or retaliation of any kind are permitted as a result of good faith reports of bullying or harassing behavior. An employee who engages in reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. A student who does so is subject to disciplinary consequences as provided in Section G, below.

G. CONSEQUENCES

1. Students

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy should take into consideration the frequency of incidents, the developmental age of the student involved, and the severity of the conduct and must be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy.

A student who is convicted under G.S. 14-458.2 of cyberbullying a school employee will be transferred to another school. If there is no other appropriate school within the school system, the student will be transferred to a different class or assigned to a teacher who was not involved as a victim of the cyberbullying. The superintendent may modify the required transfer of an individual student on a case-by-case basis and shall provide a written statement of this modification in the student's record.

2. Employees

Employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

3. Others

Volunteers and visitors who violate this policy will be directed to leave school property and/or reported to law enforcement, as appropriate, in accordance with policy 5020, Visitors to the Schools. A third party under the supervision and control of the school system will be subject to termination of contracts/agreements, restricted from school property, and/or subject to other consequences, as appropriate.

H. OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Interventions designed to remediate the impact of a violation of this policy and to restore a positive school climate will be provided as determined necessary by school officials.

I. NOTICE

This policy must be provided to employees, students, and parents, guardians, and caregivers at the beginning of each school year. Notice of this policy must be included in the Code of Student Conduct and in all student and employee handbooks. Principals are encouraged to post a copy or summary of this policy in each classroom and in a prominent location within the school building and to make an age-appropriate summary of the policy available to elementary students. Information about this policy must also be incorporated into employee training programs.

J. RECORDS

The superintendent or designee shall maintain confidential records of complaints or reports of bullying or harassing behavior under this policy. The records must identify the names of all individuals accused of such offenses and the resolution of such complaints or reports. The superintendent also shall maintain records of any remedial interventions or other steps taken by the school system to provide an environment free of bullying.

Legal References: G.S. 14-458.2; 115C-105.51, -366.4, -407.15 through -407.18

Cross References: Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (policy 1710/4020/7230), Title IX Sexual Discrimination Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Grievance Procedures Reporting Process (policy 1725/4035/7236), School-Level Investigations (policy 4340), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020), ~~Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace (policy 7232)~~

Adopted: August 12, 2020

| Revised: November 8, 2021; {DATE}

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) is committed to the safety of students and other persons on school property. In order to maintain a safe school environment, the superintendent and all school personnel shall enforce the provisions of this policy at all times.

A. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.

1. Registered Sex Offender

A registered sex offender is a person who (1) is required to register under the Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program and (2) has committed any of the following: an offense in G.S. 14, art. 7B; a federal offense or offense committed in another state, which if committed in this state, is substantially similar to an offense in G.S. 14, art. 7B; an offense in which the victim was under the age of 18 years at the time of the offense; ~~or an offense in violation of G.S. 14-190.16, 14-190.17, or 14-190.17A, or 14-190.17C;~~ or any federal offense or offense committed in another state, which if committed in this state, is substantially similar to an offense in violation of G.S. 14-190.16, 14-190.17, ~~or 14-190.17A or 14-190.17C.~~

2. School Property

School property is defined as any school grounds or any property owned or operated by the school system where minors frequently congregate.

B. REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS BANNED FROM ALL SCHOOL PROPERTY

In accordance with G.S. 14-208.18, registered sex offenders are expressly forbidden to knowingly be present on any school property, whether before, during, or after school hours. In addition, registered sex offenders may not attend or be present at any student function or field trip on or off school property that is (1) school-sponsored or (2) otherwise under the official supervision or control of school personnel. This policy applies to all registered sex offenders regardless of their relationship to or affiliation with a student in the school system.

C. ENFORCEMENT

All school personnel must immediately report to a school administrator the presence or suspected presence of a known or suspected registered sex offender on school property. School administrators and other supervisory personnel shall report to the superintendent and law enforcement when they reasonably believe that a registered sex offender is or has

been on school property or at a school event.

School administrators also shall notify the superintendent or designee of any known student or parent or guardian of a student at their school who is suspected to be a registered sex offender.

D. EXCEPTIONS

There shall be no 'special permission' given by the board of education, the superintendent, or any principal in the school system for a person subject to G.S. 14-208.18 to be on school grounds or attend events or activities in violation of this policy. A person who is banned from school property under G.S. 14-208.18 may be on school property only under the following circumstances.

1. Students

Students who are registered sex offenders may be on school property only in accordance with policy 4260, Student Sex Offenders.

2. Voters

Registered sex offenders who are eligible to vote may be present on school property for the sole purpose of voting if the school property is being used as a voting place. The voter must not be outside the voting enclosure other than for the purpose of entering and exiting the voting place. If the voting place is a school, the voter must notify the principal of the school that he or she is registered under the Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program. In addition, the individual must be under the direct supervision of school personnel at all times. The voter must leave school property immediately after voting.

3. Parents or Guardians

a. A registered sex offender who is the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in school may be on school property only for the following reasons:

- 1) to attend a scheduled conference with school personnel to discuss the student's academic or social progress; or
- 2) at the request of the principal or designee, for any reason relating to the welfare or transportation of the student.

b. In order to visit school property for one of the reasons authorized by subsection (a) above, the parent or guardian must notify the principal of his or her registration under the Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program and of his or her presence at school. Notice of his or

her presence at school includes the nature and specific times of the visit.

- c. For each visit authorized by subsection (a) above, the parent or guardian must arrange to meet a staff member at the edge of school property, check in at the principal's office upon arrival and departure, and remain under the direct supervision of school personnel at all times. If school personnel are not available to supervise the parent or guardian during any visit, then the parent or guardian will not be permitted to enter or remain on school property.
- d. For each visit authorized by subsection (a) above, the parent or guardian must comply with all reasonable rules and restrictions placed upon him or her by the principal, including restrictions on the date, time, location, and length of meeting.

E. CONTRACTUAL PERSONNEL

Each contract executed by the board must include a provision requiring the other party to the contract to conduct an annual check of the State Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program, the State Sexually Violent Predator Registration Program, and the National Sex Offender Registry for all contracted employees whose contractual job with the board requires or may result in direct interaction with students, including but not limited to any employee whose contractual job duties include: (1) delivering services directly to students; or (2) performing tasks on or delivering products to school property.

The contract must specify that no contractor or employee of a contractor registered with the State Sex Offender and Public Protection Registration Program, the State Sexually Violent Predator Registration Program, or the National Sex Offender Registry may have direct interaction with children. This provision applies to contracts with a single individual.

Legal References: G.S. ch. 14, art. 7B, 14-190.16, -190.17, -190.17A, -190.17C, -208.18, -208.19; 115C-332, -332.1

Cross References: School Safety (policy 4200/7270), Student Sex Offenders (policy 4260), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020), Recruitment and Selection of Personnel (policy 7100)

Adopted: February 8, 2016

Revised: November 13, 2017; February 14, 2022; DATE

Replaces: Policy 2.04.71, Registered Sex Offenders

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) promotes the health and safety of all students and staff and the cleanliness of all school facilities. The board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board, or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and school visitors. To this end, and to comply with state and federal law, the board adopts this tobacco-free policy that prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products as follows. For the purposes of this policy, the term “tobacco product” means any product that contains ~~or is made or derived from~~ tobacco and is intended for human consumption. The term “tobacco product” also includes alternative nicotine products (noncombustible products that contain nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, but do not contain tobacco and are intended for human consumption whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved, ingested, or by other means), consumable products (nicotine liquid solutions or other materials containing nicotine that is depleted as a vapor product is used), vapor products (noncombustible products that employ a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat consumable products) including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, and electronic pipes, and components of vapor products vaporizers, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine.

1. All employees and other persons performing services or activities on behalf of the school system, including volunteers and contractors, as well as students and visitors, are prohibited from using any tobacco products at any time in any school building, in any school facility, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board.
2. In addition, persons attending a school-sponsored event at a location not specified in subsection 1 above are prohibited from using tobacco products when (a) in the presence of students or school personnel, or (b) in an area where use of tobacco products is otherwise prohibited by law.
3. Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that such activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting tobacco.
4. The administration will consult with the county health department and other appropriate organizations to provide employees with information about support systems and programs to encourage employees to abstain from the use of tobacco products. The school system may, from time to time, provide free non-smoking programs and services to employees of the school system after the regular school day.
5. The principal of each school and other school personnel responsible for school facilities shall post signs in system facilities in a manner and location that adequately notify staff,

students and visitors that the use of tobacco products by any person is prohibited at all times in or on school property.

6. The superintendent and designees shall ensure that adequate notice of this policy is provided to students, parents, school personnel and the public.
7. All school personnel are required to adhere to and enforce this policy and other policies, rules or regulations addressing the use of tobacco products.

Legal References: Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. 6081 *et seq.*; 21 U.S.C. 321(rr); 21 C.F.R. 1100 *et seq.*; G.S. 14-313; 115C-47(18), -407

Cross References: Tobacco Products – Students (policy 4320)

Adopted: February 9, 2015

Revised: February 12, 2018 (Legal references only); DATE

Replaces: Policy 3.08.70, Tobacco Use and policy 5.07.60, Tobacco Use

The policies listed below require the superintendent or other school system employees to report certain information to various external governmental agencies and officials. This list is not exhaustive of all external reporting requirements. In addition to the reporting requirements described in this policy, the superintendent or designee shall make any other reports to external governmental agencies or officials when required by law or regulation or when required as a condition of a federal grant or award (see policy 8305, Federal Grant Administration).

A. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION/DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The superintendent must ensure that all required data, reports, and other information are submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE)/Department of Public Instruction, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. that a licensed individual has been found through a criminal records check to have a criminal history (see policy 7100, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel);
2. the reason for the resignation of certain licensed employees if the employee's criminal history is relevant to the resignation (see policy 7900, Resignation);
3. that certain licensed employees, who have been recommended for dismissal, have resigned without the superintendent's written consent (see policy 7900, Resignation);
4. parental involvement information as required by SBE Policy PRNT-002 and G.S. 115C-76.70 (see policy 4002, Parental Involvement);
5. certain crimes occurring on school property or on school sponsored field trips as required by 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0107 (see policy 4335, Criminal Behavior);
6. if at least two violent criminal offenses and at least five or more such offenses per 1000 students were committed during each of the two most recent school years, any conditions in the school that may have contributed to the commission of the violent criminal offenses and any plans to eliminate such conditions; and each student transfer made pursuant to SBE Policy SSCH-006 (see policy 4152, Unsafe School Choice Transfer);
7. a copy of the Chemical Hygiene Plan (see policy 7265, Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Science Laboratories);
8. a plan for the literacy interventions the school system will offer in the following school year, as required by G.S. 115C-83.6A (see policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability);

9. the Watauga County Board of Education's determination of how each alternative school will participate in the State Alternative Schools' Accountability Model (see policy 3470/4305, Alternative Learning Programs/Schools);
10. the comparability testing report assessing the equivalent distribution of state and local resources among schools (see policy 3565/8307, Title I Program Comparability of Services);
11. mental health and student wellness information required by SBE Policy SHLT-003 (see policy 6120, Student Health Services);
12. a copy of policy 6140, Student Wellness, if requested (see policy 6140, Student Wellness);
13. a report that provides information pertaining to the school system's efforts to comply with policy 6140, Student Wellness, and SBE Policy SHLT-000 (see policy 6140, Student Wellness);
14. a copy of any threat assessment policies, procedures, or protocols when newly approved or revised (see policy 4200/7270, School Safety);
15. quantitative data on the activities of all threat assessment teams as required by G.S. 115C-105.65(g) and the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools guidance (see policy 4200/7270, School Safety); and
16. student disciplinary data.

In addition, any administrator who knows, has reason to believe, or has actual notice of a complaint that a licensed employee has engaged in misconduct that (1) would justify automatic revocation of the employee's license pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.35(b), has resulted in a criminal charge or indictment for any of the crimes listed in G.S. 115C-270.35(b), involved the infliction of physical injury against a child or student other than by accident or in self-defense, or involved any sexual contact with a child or student, and (2) resulted in dismissal, disciplinary action, or resignation shall report the misconduct to the SBE (see policy 7130, Licensure). If a licensed employee is dismissed, is demoted, or resigns as the result of conduct that is not covered by the preceding sentence but that may otherwise justify disciplinary sanctions against the employee's license under 16 N.C.A.C. 6C .0604, the superintendent or designee shall report the conduct to the SBE (see policy 7130, Licensure).

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT

School employees, contractors, and volunteers must report to local law enforcement when they know or reasonably should know that a child has been a victim of a sexual offense or an offense that inflicts serious bodily injury or serious physical injury upon the child by nonaccidental means or an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit either

of those offenses, or misdemeanor child abuse (see policy 4240/7312, Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety).

Principals must report to law enforcement certain crimes occurring on school property (see policy 4335, Criminal Behavior, and policy 5027/7275, Weapons and Explosives Prohibited, and policy 7240, Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace, and administrative regulation 4200/7270-R, Responding to Bomb Threats).

School administrators and other supervisory personnel also must report to law enforcement when they reasonably believe that a registered sex offender is or has been on school property or at a school event (see policy 5022, Registered Sex Offenders).

The superintendent must provide law enforcement with (1) schematic diagrams of all school facilities, (2) updates of the schematic diagrams when the school system makes substantial facility modifications, (3) either keys to the main entrance of all school buildings or emergency access to key storage devices for all school buildings, and (4) updated access to school buildings when changes are made to the locks of the main entrances or to the key storage devices (see policies 4200/7270, School Safety, 5120, Relationship with Law Enforcement, and 9220, Security of Facilities).

C. LOCAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Appropriate local emergency medical services officials must be notified of the location and most recent placement of AEDs within a reasonable period of time of placement (see policy 5028/6130/7267, Automated External Defibrillator).

D. COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

School employees, contractors, and volunteers must report to the county department of social services if they suspect that a child is abused, neglected, dependent, or has died as the result of maltreatment (see policy 4240/7312, Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety).

E. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

School employees, contractors, and volunteers must report to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) if they have cause to suspect that a child in a child care facility has been maltreated by a caregiver or has died as a result of maltreatment occurring in a child care facility (see policy 4240/7312, Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety). The assistant superintendent of human resources also must notify DHHS if a child care provider has incurred any pending charges, indictments, or convictions (other than minor traffic offenses) since the last qualification letter was issued by DHHS's Division of Child Development and Early Education (see policy 7100, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel).

In addition, the principal shall provide DHHS with an annual immunization report and a

health assessment status report (see policy 4110, Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission).

F. COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The principal must report suspected cases of reportable diseases and conditions to the county health department (see policy 4230, Communicable Diseases – Students, and policy 7262, Communicable Diseases – Employees).

Supervisory personnel must report unsafe conduct to the county health department when they have a reasonable concern that such conduct may cause or may have caused the spread of a communicable disease (see policy 7262 Communicable Diseases – Employees).

G. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY'S DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The superintendent must provide the Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management with (1) emergency response information it requests for the school risk management plan, (2) updated emergency response information when such updates are made, (3) schematic diagrams of all school facilities, and (4) updates of the schematic diagrams when the school system makes substantial facility modifications (see policies 4200/7270, School Safety, and 9220, Security of Facilities).

H. NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR MISSING PERSONS

School officials must report to the Center for Missing Persons any information received indicating that a student transferring into the school system is a missing child (see policy 4700, Student Records).

I. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

The following information must be provided to the Department of Administration: (1) all legally required reports regarding contract bids and contract purchases of goods and services from historically underutilized businesses, disabled business enterprises, and nonprofit work centers for the blind and the severely disabled (see policy 6402, Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses); and (2) all legally required reports regarding the use of minority businesses in construction work (see policy 9125, Participation by Minority Businesses).

J. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The finance officer must provide notice to the board of county commissioners of any report received from the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System containing a list of employees whose retirement in the upcoming year would likely result in an assessment to the board for additional employer contribution (see policy 8510, School Finance Officer).

K. SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

The finance officer must submit reports to the Secretary of the Local Government Commission as required by law (see policy 8510, School Finance Officer).

L. FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Designated employees shall report required information regarding school system commercial motor vehicle operators through the federal Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (see policy 7241, Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators).

Legal References: 49 C.F.R. 382.705; G.S. 7B-301; 14-318.6; 110-105.4; 115C-12(27), -76.70, -83.6A, -105.53, -105.54, -105.65, -270.35, -288(g), -325(o)(2) (applicable to career status teachers), -325.9(b) (applicable to non-career status teachers), -326.20, -390.4(c), -403, -436, -446; 130A-136, -155, -441; 143-48, -128.3, -131; 10A N.C.A.C. 09 .2703(m); 16 N.C.A.C. 6C .0313, .0604, .0608; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0107; 16 N.C.A.C. 6G .0314; State Board of Education Policies PRNT-002, SHLT-000, SHLT-003, SSCH-006

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 4002), School Safety (policy 4200/7270), Responding to Bomb Threats (administrative regulation 4200/7270-R), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Alternative Learning Programs/Schools (policy 3470/4305), Title I Program Comparability of Services (policy 3565/8307), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission (policy 4110), Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety (policy 4240/7312), Student Records (policy 4700), Registered Sex Offenders (policy 5022), Weapons and Explosives Prohibited (policy 5027/7275), Automated External Defibrillator (policy 5028/6130/7267), Relationship with Law Enforcement (policy 5120), Student Health Services (policy 6120), Student Wellness (policy 6140), Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses (policy 6402), Recruitment and Selection of Personnel (policy 7100), Licensure (policy 7130), Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace (policy 7240), Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators (policy 7241), Communicable Diseases - Employees (policy 7262), Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Science Laboratories (policy 7265), Resignation (policy 7900), Federal Grant Administration (policy 8305), School Finance Officer (policy 8510), Participation by Minority Businesses (policy 9125), Security of Facilities (policy 9220)

Other Resources: *Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management: Best Practice Guidance for North Carolina Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Teams for Harm Prevention*, N.C. Department of Public Instruction Center for Safer Schools (March 2024), available at <http://www.dpi.nc.gov/best-practice-guidance-north-carolina-behavioral-threat-assessment-and-management-teams-harm>; Master Data Calendar, N.C. Department of Public Instruction, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/data-calendar>

Adopted:

A. STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES GENERALLY

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) will provide health services to students as required by law. State law authorizes school employees to administer medication prescribed by a health care practitioner upon the written request of the parents; give emergency health care when reasonably apparent circumstances indicate that any delay would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the student; and perform any other first aid or lifesaving technique in which training has been provided to school employees.

A registered nurse will be available to provide assessment, care planning, and ongoing evaluation of students with special health care service needs in the school setting.

The superintendent may develop procedures or delegate the development of procedures to each principal for providing these health services and meeting the board requirements listed below.

1. The principal shall determine at the beginning of each school year prior to the beginning of classes, and thereafter as circumstances require, which employees will be selected to participate in the health services program. The principal shall inform his or her staff about which health services duties are delegated to which employees.
2. A school nurse, with the assistance of other personnel as appropriate, will prepare an individual health plan for each student with special health care needs. This plan will identify the student’s medical needs, the person responsible for monitoring the child’s medical needs during the school day, and other information necessary to ensure the child’s medical needs are appropriately addressed during all school-related activities.
3. When a student’s special health care needs include an increased risk of a medical emergency, a school nurse, with the assistance of other personnel as appropriate, will prepare an emergency health care plan to address this risk. This plan will identify the type of risk involved, the symptoms that indicate a potential medical emergency, and the important actions that should be taken and avoided by school personnel in the event of a medical emergency.
4. Any employee designated to provide health care services must receive appropriate training.
5. Health manuals prepared by the governing state agencies must be followed in developing appropriate procedures and for determining which tasks must be performed by registered nurses.
6. Procedures must be consistent with all related board policies, including policy 4230, Communicable Diseases – Students, and policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students.

7. Procedures must be consistent with state and federal law for students with disabilities, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities* will be followed, as applicable.
8. Procedures must be consistent with guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(31) to serve students with diabetes, including developing and implementing individual diabetes care plans for such students and providing information and training to school personnel to appropriately support and assist such students, in accordance with their individual diabetes care plans.
9. Written information maintained by the school or school personnel regarding a student's medicinal and health needs is confidential. Parents and students must be accorded all rights provided by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state confidentiality laws. Any employee who violates the confidentiality of the records may be subject to disciplinary action.
10. School personnel must obtain parental consent for medical services as required by law. Parents will be notified of their rights in accordance with policy 4002, Parental Involvement.
11. Health professionals will be consulted in the development of health services. Opportunities also will be provided for input from staff, parents, and students on the health services provided.

B. SCHOOL SYSTEM MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

The superintendent shall develop a school-based mental health plan that includes a mental health training program and suicide risk referral protocol that satisfies the requirements of State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003. The superintendent shall submit the plan to the board for approval and direct implementation of the plan within all applicable deadlines.

By September 15 of each year, the superintendent shall report to the Department of Public Instruction all information required by State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003. ~~on (1) the content of the school system's mental health plan, including the mental health training program and suicide risk referral protocol, and (2) the school system's prior school year compliance with the requirements of State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003.~~ The board will review the components of the school system's mental health plan at least every five years, starting August 1, 2025, and will update the mental health plan in accordance with any updated requirements provided by the State Board of Education.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12134, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 300; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 705(20), -794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; G.S. 90-21.10B; 115C-12(12), -12(31), -36, -307(c), -375.1, -375.3, -376.5; 16

N.C.A.C. 6D.0402; 21 N.C.A.C. 36-.0221, .0224; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policies EXCP-000, SHLT-003

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 4002), Communicable Diseases – Students (policy 4230), Student Records (policy 4700), Administering Medicines to Students (policy 6125)

Adopted: April 11, 2016

Revised: August 14, 2017 and April 9, 2018 and January 13, 2020 (Legal references only);
September 13, 2021; November 6, 2023; DATE

Replaces: Board policy 5.03.30, Student Health Services

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes that it is important for students to maintain their physical health and receive proper nutrition in order to take advantage of educational opportunities. The board further recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to a student’s physical well-being, growth, development, and readiness to learn. The board is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience. As part of that commitment, the board directs the superintendent to oversee the development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of this policy and other school system efforts to encourage students to be healthy and active, including compliance with the State Board of Education’s Healthy Active Children Policy, SHLT-000, as further described in Section F, below. The superintendent may designate a school system official to carry out this responsibility (“lead wellness official”).

The superintendent or designee shall make the most current version of this policy available to members of the school community and the public by posting it on the school system website and/or by distributing it annually through other means reasonably intended to reach the school community and public. In addition, the superintendent or designee shall provide a copy of this policy to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) when requested to do so.

A. SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The board will maintain a school health advisory council to help plan, update, implement, promote, and monitor this policy as well as to address other health and nutrition issues within the school system. The council serves as an advisory committee regarding student health issues and works in conjunction with school nutrition staff and the lead wellness official charged with oversight of this policy and the school system’s efforts to promote student and employee health and wellness in compliance with state and federal requirements. The council is authorized to examine related research and laws, assess student needs and the current school environment, review existing board policies and administrative regulations, collaborate with appropriate community agencies and organizations, and help raise awareness about student health issues. The council also may make policy recommendations to the board related to this policy and other policies concerning student wellness and in conjunction with the lead wellness official and school nutrition staff, shall periodically review and suggest revisions to this policy. In addition, the council may assist in the development of a plan for measuring and assessing implementation of this policy and in developing methods to inform and update the public about the content and implementation of this policy as described in Sections F and G, below.

The council will be composed of representatives from the school system, the local health department, and the community. The council must include members of each of the following groups: the school board, school system administrators, school system food service representatives, physical education teachers, school health professionals, students, parents or guardians, and the public. The council will provide information to the board

about the following areas or concerns: (1) physical activity, (2) health education, (3) employee wellness, (4) health services, (5) social and emotional climate, (6) nutrition environment and services, (7) counseling, psychological, and social services, (8) physical environment, (9) family engagement, and (10) community involvement.

The council shall provide periodic reports to the board and public regarding the status of its work. In addition, the council shall assist the lead wellness official in creating an annual report that includes the minutes of physical activity and the minutes of physical education and/or healthful living education received by students in the system each school year, as well as any other information required by the State Board of Education or NCDPI.

B. NUTRITION PROMOTION AND NUTRITION EDUCATION

The board believes that promoting student health and nutrition enhances readiness for learning and increases student achievement. The general goals of nutrition promotion and nutrition education are (1) to provide appropriate instruction for the acquisition of behaviors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle for students and (2) to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students.

The board will provide nutrition education within the Healthful Living Standard Course of Study and the grade level expectations outlined in the Healthful Living Essential Standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Nutrition education should be designed to provide all students with the knowledge and skills needed to lead healthy lives. Students should learn to address nutrition-related health concerns through age-appropriate nutrition education lessons and activities.

Nutrition education and promotion should extend beyond the school environment by engaging and involving families and communities. School system personnel may coordinate with agencies and community organizations to provide opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition. School system personnel are to work to disseminate and promote consistent nutrition messages throughout the school system, schools, classrooms, school dining areas, homes, community, and media.

In conjunction with the school health advisory council, the board establishes the following additional specific evidence-based goals and strategies for nutrition promotion and education. The board will periodically measure and report progress toward meeting these goals.

- Teachers will integrate nutrition education into the curriculum as appropriate.
- Nutrition education will promote fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and appropriate portion sizes.
- Nutrition and health posters, signage, and/or displays will be exhibited in the cafeteria food service and dining areas and will be rotated, updated, or changed as new or additional information is available.

- Students will have opportunities to taste foods that are low in saturated and trans fats, sodium, and added sugar.
- School personnel will strive to provide a pleasant eating experience for students and adults by adopting the following practices:
 - Student input is solicited for meal choices.
 - Nutrient analysis is available to teachers, parents, students, and health professionals when possible.
 - Adequate time to eat is provided. The recommended eating time for each child after being served is 15 minutes for breakfast and 20 minutes for lunch. School personnel will schedule enough time, lunch periods, and serving lines so students do not have to spend excessive time waiting in line.
 - Adult supervision and role modeling is available during the meal service times to encourage students to eat meals.
 - Drinking fountains will be available for students to get water at meals and throughout the day.

C. NUTRITION STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR ALL FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL

Consistent with policy 6200, Goals of School Nutrition Services, all foods available in the system's schools during the school day that are offered to students should help promote student health, reduce childhood obesity, provide a variety of nutritional meals, and promote lifelong healthy eating habits. All foods and beverages sold at school must meet the nutrition standards established in policy 6230, School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards, including the following:

1. School Lunch, Breakfast and Snack Programs

Foods provided through the National School Lunch, ~~and~~ School Breakfast, or After School Snack Programs must comply with federal and state nutrition standards. The director of child nutrition shall ensure that school system guidelines for reimbursable meals are not less restrictive than regulations and guidelines issued for schools in accordance with federal law.

2. Competitive Foods

All foods sold on school campuses in areas that are accessible to students during the school day (defined as the period from midnight through 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) in competition with the National School Lunch or School

Breakfast Programs ("competitive foods") must comply with the federal Smart Snacks in School standards. Competitive foods include food, snacks and beverages from a la carte menus, vending machines, and outside suppliers, as well as foods or beverages sold in school stores and at fund-raisers. Vending machine sales also must comply with the requirements of G.S. 115C-264.2.

3. Other Foods Available on the School Campus During the School Day and After the School Day

School principals shall establish rules for foods and beverages brought from home for classroom events or parties during the school day or for extracurricular activities after the school day. The board encourages principals to establish rules that are consistent with the Smart Snacks in School standards.

Fundraising activities that involve the sale of foods and/or beverages to students during the school day (from midnight until 30 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) must comply with the Smart Snack Rules and may not be conducted until after the end of the last lunch period. See policy 6230, School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards.

School principals may establish standards for fund-raising activities conducted after the school day (beginning 31 minutes after the dismissal bell rings) that involve the sale of food and/or beverages. The board encourages alternative fundraising activities such as non-food items or physical activity.

4. Food and Beverage Marketing

Food and beverage marketing on school campuses during the school day must meet federal ~~and state~~ standards. In accordance with these standards, only foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snack standards (as described in subsection C.2, above) may be marketed or advertised on school campuses during the school day. To comply with this requirement, existing supplies, materials, or equipment that depict noncompliant products or logos will be replaced or removed in accordance with normal lifecycles or as otherwise would occur in the normal course of business.

D. PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

1. Goals of the Physical Education Program

The goal of the physical education program is to promote lifelong physical activity and provide instruction in the skills and knowledge necessary for lifelong participation in physical activity. To address issues such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, and Type II diabetes, and to improve student mental health, students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade must have the opportunity to

participate in physical activity as part of the system's physical education curriculum. The goal for elementary schools is to provide 150 minutes weekly of quality physical education with a certified physical education teacher. The goal for middle schools is to provide 225 minutes weekly of Healthful Living Education, divided equally between health and physical education with certified health and physical education teachers.

2. The Physical Education Course

The physical education course should be designed to foster support and guidance for being physically active, help students know and understand the value of being physically fit, and teach students the types of activities that contribute to total fitness. The course is to be taught in an environment where students can learn, practice, and receive assessment on developmentally appropriate skills and knowledge as defined in the North Carolina Healthful Living Standard Course of Study. Students should be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity for fifty percent or more of class time. Class for physical education should be equivalent in size to those of other academic classes.

3. Physical Activity Requirements and Goals

School personnel should strive to provide opportunities for age- and developmentally-appropriate physical activity during the day for all students in the interest of improving student mental health and so that students can learn how to maintain a physically active lifestyle. Schools must provide a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily for kindergarten through eighth-grade students. Such activity may be achieved through a regular daily physical education class as described in Sections D.1 and D.2 above, or through recess, dance, classroom energizers and/or other curriculum-based physical activity programs of at least 10 minutes duration, that, when combined, total 30 minutes of daily physical activity. Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, students in grades 9-12 must be provided with 60 minutes of physical activity weekly. Principals shall work with teachers to ensure that students meet the minimum physical activity requirement. The board will periodically measure and report progress toward meeting these goals.

To ensure that students have ongoing opportunities for physical activity and maintain a positive attitude towards physical activity, structured/unstructured recess and other physical activity may not be taken away from students as a form of punishment. In addition, ~~severe and inappropriate~~ exercise may not be used as a form of punishment for students.

In conjunction with the school health advisory council, the board establishes the following additional specific evidence-based goals and strategies for physical activity:

- K-8 schools and the high school will provide extra-curricular activities that enable students to select from a variety of sports and other active endeavors.
- Teachers will incorporate opportunities for physical activity in the classroom when possible.
- The K-8 schools will provide annual fitness testing for students in grades 3 through 8.

E. OTHER SCHOOL-BASED ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE WELLNESS

In addition to the standards discussed above, the board adopts the following goals for school-based activities designed to promote wellness:

1. Schools will provide a clean and safe meal environment.
2. Students will be provided adequate time to eat meals.
3. Drinking water will be available at all meal periods and throughout the school day.
4. Professional development will be provided for school system nutrition staff.
5. To the extent possible, the school system will utilize available funding and outside programs to enhance student wellness.
6. Food will not be used in the schools as a reward or punishment.
7. As appropriate, the goals of this wellness policy will be considered in planning all school-based activities.
8. Administrators, teachers, school nutrition personnel, students, parents or guardians, and community members will be encouraged to serve as positive role models to promote student wellness.
9. Teachers are encouraged to serve as role models by being physically active alongside their students during physical classroom activities.
10. Each school will annually hold a health fair to provide information supporting healthy lifestyle choices and practices.

F. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF POLICY

1. Oversight and Monitoring of Implementation and Progress

The lead wellness official, in conjunction with the school health advisory council, shall oversee the implementation of this policy and monitor system schools, programs, and curricula to ensure compliance with and to assess progress under this policy, related policies, and established guidelines or administrative regulations. Each principal shall be responsible for and shall report to the lead wellness official regarding compliance and measurements of progress in his or her school. Staff members responsible for programs related to student wellness also shall report to the lead wellness official regarding the status of such programs.

2. Review of Policy

The lead wellness official shall work with members of the school health advisory council to periodically review and update this policy based on the triennial assessment of the school system's compliance with the policy (see subsection F.4. below), progress toward meeting the policy goals, and other relevant factors. The lead wellness official shall document the review process and participants, and the method used to notify the school health advisory council and/or other stakeholders of their ability to participate.

3. Annual Reporting

The lead wellness official shall prepare annual written reports to the superintendent and NCDPI/State Board of Education that provide all information required by the superintendent and/or the state pertaining to the school system's efforts to comply with this policy and SBE Policy SHLT-000. The report shall also be presented to the board.

4. Triennial Assessment

~~At least once every three years, Beginning with school year 2017-18, and at least once every three years thereafter,~~ the superintendent or designee shall report to the board and public on the system's compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness, the implementation of this policy, and progress toward meeting the goals of the policy. At a minimum, the superintendent or designee shall measure and report the following:

- 1) the extent to which the individual schools are in compliance with this policy;
- 2) the extent to which the board's wellness policy compares to model local school wellness policies and meets state and federal requirements; and

- 3) a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The report may also include the following items:

- 4) a summary of each school's activities undertaken in support of the policy goals;
- 5) an assessment of the school environment regarding student wellness issues;
- 6) an evaluation of the school nutrition services program;
- 7) a review of all foods and beverages sold in schools for compliance with established nutrition guidelines;
- 8) a review of guidelines for foods and beverages available, but not sold, during the school day, as described in subsection eC.3, above;
- 9) information provided in the report from the school health advisory council, as described in Section A, above; and
- 10) suggestions for improvement to this policy or other policies or programs.

G. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

1. The school system will publish contact information for the lead wellness official on the school system website.
2. The lead wellness official shall assist the school health advisory council with annually informing and updating the public about this policy and its implementation and State Board Policy SHLT-000.
3. The superintendent or designee shall make public the results of the triennial assessment described in subsection F.4. of this policy.
4. All information required to be reported under this section and any additional information required by the state to be reported publicly shall be widely disseminated to students, parents, and the community in an accessible and easily understood manner, which may include by posting on the school system website.

H. RECORDKEEPING

The superintendent shall maintain records to document compliance with this policy and all

federal and state requirements. These records, at a minimum, must include:

1. a written copy of this policy and any updates;
2. the most recent triennial assessment for each school;
3. documentation demonstrating:
 - a. the efforts to review and update this policy, as described in subsection F.2 of this policy;
 - b. how this policy and information about the most recent triennial assessments have been made available to the public, as described in Section G;
 - c. compliance with the annual reporting requirements of subsection F.3; and
 - d. other efforts to involve the school health advisory council and/or other community members in the implementation of or assessment of compliance with this policy.

Legal References: Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, 42 U.S.C. 1751; Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, P.L. 111-296; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.*; 7 C.F.R. 210.11, 210.12, and 210.31; G.S. 115C-264.2; 16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0104; State Board of Education Policies CHNU-002, SHLT-000, SHLT-003, ~~CHNU-002~~

Cross References: Goals of Student Health Services (policy 6100), Goals of School Nutrition Services (policy 6200), School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards (policy 6230)

Adopted: June 8, 2015

Replaces: Board Policy 4.01.80, Wellness Policy

Revised: January 15, 2018; November 13, 2018; January 13, 2020 (Legal references only); July 26, 2021; May 8, 2023; DATE

CLASSIFIED STAFF BUS DRIVING REQUIREMENTS

Policy Code: 6301

The board recognizes that providing school bus services for students is a fundamental responsibility of a public school system. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Watauga County Schools system is able to meet this responsibility even in the absence of sufficient personnel hired solely as bus drivers. Furthermore, the Board recognizes that requiring professional staff to drive buses on a routine basis negatively impacts the ability of the system to address educational and administration requirements critical to providing students with a sound basic education.

Consistent with that purpose, all full-time school-based classified staff medically qualified to drive a school bus will have the obligation to do so, as specified in this policy. ~~for the first fifteen years of employment with the Watauga County Schools. School-based classified personnel that have fulfilled this obligation will have the option to continue driving or be excused from these responsibilities. However, the Board recognizes that, as of the 2024-25 school year, school-based classified personnel who fulfilled this obligation for the first fifteen years of employment with Watauga County Schools currently have the option to continue driving or be excused from these responsibilities. Therefore, any such employee who fulfills their driving obligation as of June 30, 2025, is hereby grandfathered and retains the option to choose whether to drive a bus.~~

All school-based classified staff, ~~with the exception of 1) school secretaries, 2) tutors, 3) cafeteria managers, 4) extended learning center staff, and 5) those age 65 or over, except school secretaries, tutors, cafeteria managers, and extended learning center staff; those age 65 or over; and those employed on or before August 1, 1994,~~ are required to obtain and maintain a CDL Driver's License and School Bus Driver pocket card as a condition of employment. In order to continue employment, required school site-based classified employees who are employed without the required CDL must enroll in the next available bus driver training class and complete all requirements to obtain the required license. The employment of school-based classified staff that do not enroll in the next available class and/or do not complete all the requirements for the CDL license will be immediately terminated. ~~unless there is a valid reason approved by the principal.~~

Required school-based classified staff that have their CDL License or their School Bus Drivers pocket card revoked after the school year begins will be given until the beginning of the next school year to obtain the license and/or have the pocket card renewed. Required school-based classified staff who fail to re-obtain the license and/or have the pocket card renewed by the beginning of the next school year will not be employed for that school year.

Required school site-based classified staff with a temporary medical condition diagnosed by a licensed physician ~~that which~~ medically prevents the employee from driving a school bus with reasonable accommodation will be given until the beginning of the next school year to resolve their medical condition. In the event that a required school-based classified employee becomes incapable of driving a school bus with reasonable accommodation due to a permanent medical condition diagnosed by a licensed physician, the employee will be excused from driving responsibilities ~~unless such action would pose an undue burden to the Watauga County Schools.~~ "Reasonable accommodation" under this policy does not include providing a substitute bus driver for an indefinite period of time. "Undue burden" under this policy includes the existence of a bus driver shortage by which the system is unable to hire a sufficient number of full-time bus drivers, and as a result, licensed school staff are required to drive buses in order to meet the

system's transportation obligations to students. The Board recognizes that routine bus driving is not an appropriate duty for licensed staff who have other significant job responsibilities pursuant to law and policy.

The "Physician Certification of Disability" form is to be submitted to the Human Resources Director no later than July 1 of each year by any employee who believes that they are unable to drive a school bus due to a temporary or permanent medical condition. The Human Resources Director reserves the right to request a second physician evaluation at the Board of Education's expense. All claims of disability will be reviewed on an annual basis or more frequently at the discretion of the Human Resources Director **with regard to both reasonable accommodation and undue burden.**

~~Required school-based classified staff will be expected to drive regular bus routes, substitute for regular bus driver absences, and drive buses for field trips. Required classified staff will be assigned to drive on a rotation basis. Principals will be responsible for developing a fair and equitable rotation that is appropriate for the school and ensuring that all required classified staff are utilized in a fair and equitable rotation manner unless an employee has a valid reason not to be included in the rotation that has been approved by the Human Resources Director.~~

~~Teacher assistants assigned to a classroom(s) will not be required to drive for field trips of classrooms they are not assigned to unless there is an emergency that would cause the other classroom to lose the field trip.~~

~~The employment of required school-based classified staff who refuse or who are not willing to drive for regular bus driver absences or field trips will be immediately terminated unless a valid reason has been submitted to and approved by the principal.~~

~~Principals will encourage regular bus drivers to notify the school if they plan to be absent for a morning route by the afternoon prior to the absence and by 12:00 p.m. if they plan to be absent for an afternoon route unless an emergency arises.~~

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -239, -240, -242, -245; G.S. 20-218

Cross References: Safety and Student Transportation Services (policy 6305), School Bus Idling (policy 6306), Organization of Student Transportation Services (policy 6310), Drivers (policy 6315), Extracurricular and Non-Instructional Duties (policy 7405)

Adopted: March 14, 2005 as policy 3.02.35

Revised: December 10, 2007; April 11, 2016