



**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
July 14, 2025

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 3:00 p.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER | Dr. Gary Childers |
| 3:03 p.m. | 2. CLOSED SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of the Minutes for 5/12/2025B. 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) | Dr. Gary Childers |
| 6:00 p.m. | 3. OPEN SESSION CALL TO ORDER/
WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE | Dr. Gary Childers |
| 6:03 p.m. | 4. DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA | Dr. Gary Childers |
| 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. SPECIAL RECOGNITION <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Dave Harrison Athletic Director of the Year Award★ Servant's Heart Award | Dr. Chris Blanton
Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| 6:25 p.m. | 8. PUBLIC COMMENT | Dr. Gary Childers |
| 6:32 p.m. | 9. CONSENT AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of the Minutes for 5/12/2025 | Dr. Gary Childers |

- B. Declaration of Surplus
- C. 2024-25 Budget Amendment #6
- D. 2025-26 Request for Adoption of Interim Continuing Budget Resolution
- E. 2025-26 Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook
- F. 2025-26 WCS Student Fees
- G. 2025-26 WCS After School Rates/Fees
- H. 2025-26 School Nutrition Contract Approvals
- I. 2025-26 Meal Price Increases
- J. 2025-26 Proposed Title I Budget
- K. NC Driving School Contract
- L. Personnel Report

6:35 p.m.	10. CURRICULUM UPDATE	Mr. Phil Norman
6:50 p.m.	11. POLICY: SUBSTANTIVE FOR THIRD READ • 1370: Board Committees	Dr. Wayne Eberle
6:55 p.m.	12. POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ • 3225/4312/7320: Technology Responsible Use • 3400: Evaluation of Student Progress • 3420: Student Promotion and Accountability • 6220: Operation of School Nutrition Services • 6330: Insurance for Student Transportation Services	Dr. Wayne Eberle
7:10 p.m.	13. BOARD OPERATIONS	Dr. Gary Childers
7:15 p.m.	14. BOARD COMMENTS	Dr. Gary Childers
7:20 p.m.	15. ADJOURNMENT	Dr. Gary Childers
	16. MISCELLANEOUS ❖ WCS 2025-26 Calendar Committee	



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DATE: May 12, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Margaret E. Gragg Education Center

PRESENT:

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

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers called the open session meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed those in attendance and then requested to observe a moment of silence.

DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

Charlotte Lloyd made a motion to remove #15/Policy: *Substantive for Third Read* from the agenda and move it to the June BOE meeting. Alison Idol seconded the motion, and all Board members approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- "ComeBack Shack" had three Give Back Days again this school year to help with student lunch debts, and \$12,528 was raised! Watauga County Schools is so grateful to "ComeBack Shack" for bringing awareness to this issue, for the incredibly helpful funds and support they have given, and for their wonderful partnership.
- 8th Grade promotion ceremonies will be held June 4th, 5th, or 6th depending on the school. Watauga's graduation is Friday, June 6th at 5:30 pm in the ASU Holmes Convocation center. There are several senior activities leading up to graduation, and more details about these events are available on the Watauga High School website.
- Gina Holste, Valle Crucis' Reading Specialist, was named the 2025-26 WCS Teacher of the Year. She is one of the teachers who lost everything in her classroom when the school was flooded, but that

did not deter her from showing up everyday with a positive attitude to deliver high-quality interventions to her students.

➤ **Recognition Dates:**

- May 1: National School Principals Day
- May 2: School Lunch Hero Day
- May 5-9: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 7: School Nurses Day
- May 9: School Communicators Day
- May 18: Speech Pathologist Day

VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL UPDATE

Furniture installation will start on May 15th and will take about three weeks to complete. The pedestrian bridge across the wetlands is currently being installed, and signage installation is scheduled for the second week of June. The binder course has been completed. The septic system is on schedule, but they are waiting on some clarification about the site's electrical plan. The Internet has been running to the building (which was necessary for the elevator), and they will now start working on fire alarms and other monitoring systems. The goal is to have temporary occupancy around July 4th.

STUDENTS' REPORT

- Senior Hatherley Armfield received the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship for the University of Chapel Hill. In addition to covering all academic expenses, the scholarship will also allow for independent research, summer enrichment opportunities, and international study.
- Congratulations to WHS/IA Principal Scott Strickler who just earned his doctorate. Students signed a banner and gave him marbles to symbolize him "not losing his marbles" while getting his degree!
- Green Valley School:
 - 8th grader Nathaniel Walker raised \$2000 for the Media Center as part of his Eagle Scout project.
 - May 6th: 5th-8th grade students had their visual art on display.
 - May 16th: Annual Talent Show
 - June 5th: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
- Parkway School:
 - May 15th at 6:30 p.m.: Spring Concert
 - June 4th: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
 - June 5th and 6th: Award ceremonies for grades 3-7
- Advanced Placement (AP) exams are May 5th-16th, and students who score high enough on these exams may earn college credit. 3rd-8th graders will soon be taking End-of-Grade tests, and 1st and 2nd second graders will take Reading (mClass) and Math iReady assessments.
- The Watauga Men's Golf team wrapped up one of the most accomplished seasons in the program's history as they won their first conference championship since 1974.
- The Watauga Women's Track team are the 4A West Regional Champions. The Men's Track team followed closely behind as runner-up regional champions. Thirteen athletes will take part in the 4A state championships on May 17th.
- Among the graduation festivities for seniors, a unique tradition at Watauga is the Capping Ceremony when each soon-to-be graduate is "dressed" in their cap/gown by an underclassman. The ceremony

will be held on May 20th, and doors will open for parents/guests at 4:00 p.m. Following the capping portion, there will be a Senior Awards ceremony.

11TH GRADE STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Adam Hege made a motion for Rosalyn Rabinowitz to be the 11th Grade Student Board Representative for the 2025-26 school year. Charlotte Lloyd seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The Board members interviewed several very talented and impressive students in April for the position. Rosalyn Rabinowitz displayed enthusiasm and a passion for being a voice for students. She is a well-rounded and dedicated individual who contributes to her school and community, and the Board is confident she will make a positive impact in her role as a Student Board Representative.

SPECIAL/PUBLIC RECOGNITION

NCSPRA Blue Ribbon Awards

The North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPRA) recognizes outstanding communications each year through its Blue Ribbon Awards program. Watauga County Schools was one of thirty-five districts statewide to receive one or more Blue Ribbon awards, and *Director of Communications* Bailey Little attended a reception in April to be recognized. WCS received three Bronze-level awards; two were in the category of Electronic Media and one was for Excellence in Writing. Dr. Alexander expressed her appreciation to Ms. Little for all she does to communicate with stakeholders, especially through social media platforms.

Band and Orchestra

Director of Middle Grades Education Meredith Jones expressed her gratitude to the BOE for their support of Arts education before several talented students in the Band and Orchestra programs were recognized.

- Dash Biles (Valle Crucis): All-District Band
- Ian Biles (WHS): All-District Band & Western Region Jazz Ensemble
- Noah Blow (Parkway): Junior Western Region Orchestra
- James Bostrom (WHS): All-District Band
- Clara Lappan (WHS): Western Region Orchestra
- Ethan Rusher (WHS): All-State Honors Orchestra
- Josephine Walker (WHS): Western Region Orchestra

The teachers are Marc Lumley, Shawn Roberts, Will Selle, and Taryn Wooten.

Battle of the Books – District, Regional, and State Highlights

Director of Technology Dr. Alison Schleede recognized the outstanding achievements and representation of Watauga County Schools' "Battle of the Books" teams at the district, regional, and state levels. She expressed appreciation to the Watauga Education Foundation for consistently supporting this program.

- Elementary: Hardin Park Red was the district champion after competing against ten other elementary school teams. They represented Watauga County Schools at the regional competition and finished in 2nd place. The team consisted of Max Bullers, Matilda Church, Catie Grace Hutelmyer, Clara Margerison, and Everleigh Rasmussen. The coaches were Corrie Freeman and Barbara Myers.

- **Middle School:** Hardin Park Red won the district competition, outperforming eleven other middle school teams. They secured 1st place at the regional competition, and they came in 4th at the state level. The team consisted of Malachi Carson, Makenzie Hoffmann, Noah Kilby, Myra McAllister, Rohan Parry, Ricky Saylors, Lucy Schurman, and Norah Torrie. The coaches were Amy Hiatt and Candice Trexler.
- **High School:** Watauga High School earned 2nd place at the regional level. The team consisted of Rebecca Billette, Ariail Lewis, Sydney Moretz, and Riley Olson. The coach was Kane Hall.

Graduating Student Board Representative

Ms. Mia Llibre was recognized as the graduating Student Board Representative. Dr. Childers thanked Mia for her leadership and service, and Dr. Alexander described her as a well-rounded and thoughtful individual who has actively contributed to her school community. Mia said, “This position has been so meaningful to me, and I have gotten to see how much the Board cares about the student body.” Her parents were in attendance to see her recognized and presented with a leadership medal and certificate. After graduation, Ms. Llibre (who is the recipient of the Don and Audrey Bentley Scholarship) will be attending the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no citizens who made public comments.

PRESENTATION ~ THE ANXIOUS GENERATION: PHONE-FREE SCHOOLS

Local pediatrician Dr. Scott St. Clair shared highlights and insights from the book The Anxious Generation (by Jonathan Haidt). A key point made is that “there is an overprotection of kids in the real world, yet an underprotection of kids in the virtual world.” The average teen spends seven hours per day on their phone. Four foundational harms of young people having cellphones are social deprivation, sleep deprivation, attention fragmentation, and addiction. Psychiatrist and author Dr. Anna Lembke wrote, “The smartphone is the modern-day hypodermic needle, delivering dopamine 24/7 for a wired generation.” Dr. St. Clair shared several key recommendations: no smartphones before high school, no social media before age sixteen, phone-free schools, and play-based childhood.

The North Carolina General Assembly is working on House Bill 87, which would restrict or ban cell phone use in public schools during instructional time. The bill would require local school boards to adopt cell phone-free education policies that either eliminate or severely restrict student access to cell phones during class.

AIG LOCAL PLAN

Mr. Jake Orange, *WCS’ District AIG Coordinator*, presented the AIG Local Plan effective for 2025-2028. Watauga County Schools engaged in a self-assessment process involving a broad range of stakeholders, and the insights gained through the collaborative review helped inform the development of the local plan. Mr. Orange reviewed the district’s practices and response to each of the standards in the plan. He also shared identification criteria, differentiation practices, services in a multi-tiered system of supports, and

personnel roles/responsibilities. The local AIG program (as of 2025) is funded by the state in the amount of \$560,992.

Alison Idol made a motion to approve the AIG Local Plan for 2025-2028. Charlotte Lloyd seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for 4/15/2025
- B. Field Trip Request
- C. Declaration of Surplus
- D. Policies (*that have no substantive changes to content*)
 - 1600: Hearing Before the Board
 - 4331: Assaults and Threats
 - 5060: Responding to Complaints
 - 7100: Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
 - 7335: Employee Use of Social Media
 - 7340: Employee Dress and Appearance
 - 7820: Personnel Files
 - 9210: Care, Maintenance, and Public Use of Grounds and Outdoor Equipment
- E. Personnel Report

Alison Idol made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Adam Hege seconded the motion, and it was approved by all Board members.

CTE LOCAL PLAN

Director of Career & Technical Education Dr. Tierra Stark shared an overview of the CTE Local Plan. During this school year, there were 854 student participants in grades K-8, and 1139 student participants in grades 9-12. There are twenty-two CTE teachers and four support personnel.

Areas of Celebration for WCS CTE Performance:

- Concentrator Cohort Graduation: greater than 95% (above local benchmark; in line with state goal)
- Academic Proficiency in ELA: 54.50% (above local benchmark; above state goal)
- Postsecondary Placement: greater than 95% (above local benchmark; above state goal)
- Credential Attainment: 87.50% (above local benchmark; above state goal)

Areas for Growth for WCS CTE Performance:

- Academic Proficiency in Math: 37.70% (below local benchmark; above state goal)
- Academic Proficiency in Science: 54.20% (below local benchmark; below state goal)
- Non-Traditional Concentrations: 26.58% (above local benchmark; below state goal)
- Proof of Learning (POL) Proficiency: 91.28% (below local benchmark; above state goal)

During 2024-25, funding was spent on maintenance of labs, instructional materials, student support materials, addition of a Curriculum and Instructional Management Coordinator (CIMC), credentials, and innovations (advanced 3D printers, Cosmetology training, and industry furniture). Next school year, state

and federal dollars will be spent on Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), credentials, instructional supplies, personnel, and industry-aligned equipment.

Charlotte Lloyd moved to approve the CTE Local Plan. Dr. Jay Fenwick seconded, and all Board members approved the plan.

BOARD OPERATIONS

- ★ The Board members will have a half-day Board Retreat/Work Session on July 8th from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Facilities will be one of the topics discussed.
- ★ Dr. Alexander, Gary Childers, and Alison Idol will have a virtual meeting on May 20th with Leanne Winner (NCSBA Executive Director) to talk about how NCSBA can strengthen their support for School Boards.
- ★ Reminder: The CCC&TI College Board of Trustees, Watauga County Board of Education, and Watauga County Commissioners will have their joint annual meeting on May 21st at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no additional Board comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Alison Idol made a motion to adjourn, Dr. Jay Fenwick seconded, and it was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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

Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*

Declaration of Surplus Items - JUNE & JULY 2025

Date Approved: _____

Bethel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
28079	1	CART- COMPUTER CHARGEING	1	
NONE	1	COUCH- BLUE LEATHER		1
2			1	1

Blowing Rock

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

Cove Creek

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
800197	1	PRINTER	1	
28077	1	CART- 30 SLOT CHARGER	1	
801033	1	CALCULATOR		1
800576	1	CALCULATOR		1
NONE	2	DESKS- TEACHER WOODEN		2
NONE	1	RISER	1	
7			3	4

Green Valley

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

Hardin Park

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
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NONE	1	SPEAKER- BLUE TOOTH	1
500632	1	MICROSCOPE- SWIFT	1
501068	1	MICROSCOPE- MEIJI	1
NONE	1	CALIONE LISTENING CASE	1
NONE	1	CASSETTE RECORDER- CALIFONE	1
500708	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500709	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500710	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500711	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500712	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500713	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500714	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500715	1	CAMCORDER- VIVITAR	1
500563	1	DESK- L OFFICE	1

12

1

11

Mabel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE	1	CHAIR- STUDENT		1
NONE	1	WINCH- BASKETBALL		1
NONE	1	SCREEN- PROJECTION		1
NONE	1	CHAIR- OFFICE		1

4

0

4

Parkway

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
50130	1	LOVESEAT	1	
50129	1	COUCH	1	
700291	1	TI-73 CALCULATOR		1
701017	1	TI-73 CALCULATOR		1
700902	1	TI-73 CALCULATOR		1
700859	1	TI-73 CALCULATOR		1
700862	1	TI-73 CALCULATOR		1
700835	1	TI- 83 CALCULATOR		1
700838	1	TI- 83 CALCULATOR		1
700708	1	TI- 83 CALCULATOR		1
700840	1	TI- 83 CALCULATOR		1

NONE	1 STAND- VOLLYBALL	1	
NONE	1 CART- METAL	1	
NONE	7 TI-34 CALCULATOR		7
NONE	6 TI-15 CALCULATOR		6

26

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4

22

Valle Crucis

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

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0

0

Watauga High School

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
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900857	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
900753	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
900754	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
900844	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
900842	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
NONE	50	CHAIR- STUDENT		50
900845	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
900841	1	OFFICE/ CONF CHAIR		1
NONE	3	CUBBIES		3

60

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0

60

Central Office

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

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0

0

Technology Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
301404	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
301405	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
301406	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
200896	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
NONE	1	MONITOR- HP		1
500721	1	DOC CAMERA- IPEVO		1
34958	1	CHROMEBOOK- 100E		1
35309	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
500674	1	DOC CAMERA- IPEVO		1
39925	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
36833	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
28419	1	PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
34843	1	ELITEBOOK		1
52250	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
35414	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
36590	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
33095	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
34299	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
34252	1	CHROMBOOK		1
33980	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
500102	1	SMARTBOARD		1
33066	1	PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
36768	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
33066	1	PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
35423	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
37498	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
35308	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
VARIES	29	CHROMEBOOK- 100e		29
VARIES	81	CHROMEBOOK- 100e		81
36306	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
37560	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
36288	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
28078	1	CART- COMPUTER CHARGING	1	
500217	1	SMARTBOARD		1
28945	1	PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
500226	1	SMARTBOARD		1
35893	1	HOT SPOT- CAROLINA WEST		1
NONE	2	IPOD		2
NONE	3	MPS PLAYERS		3
NONE	3	MICROPHONE- APPLE		3
36889	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP		1
900345	1	DUPLICATOR- USB	1	

500367	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
29576	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
29897	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
25735	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
28780	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON		1
33015	1 PROJECTOR- BRIGH LINK		1
28935	1 PROJECTOR- BRIGH LINK		1
28449	1 PROJECTOR- BRIGH LINK		1
NONE	3 SETS OF WALL MNT SPEAKERS	3	
NONE	3 AMPLIFIERS	3	
600071	1 SMARTBOARD 680		1
29640	1 DESKTOP- OPTIPLEX 790		1
29802	1 DESKTOP- OPTIPLEX 790		1
34751	1 DOC CAMERA- DUKANE		1
25401	1 SWITCH- JUNIPER		1
33152	1 CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 100E		1
33897	1 DESKTOP- PRECISION T3610		1
500142	1 PROJECTOR- NEC		1
903461	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
906747	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
906752	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
903529	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
906757	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
28963	1 PORT REPLICATOR		1
906748	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
38528	1 DOC CAMERA- IPEVO		1
400032	1 DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
MANY	24 DESKTOPS- Z-240	24	
MANY	16 CHROMEBOOK- 100e		16
28801	1 LABMATE		1
908091	1 MICROPHONE		1
908087	1 MICROPHONE		1
35808	1 ELITEBOOK		1
903085	1 CAMERA- SONY		1
908297	1 FLAT PANEL- THINKVISION		1
906726	1 ROUTER- GOOGLE		1
906694	1 ROUTER- GOOGLE		1
906696	1 TABLET- ACER		1
906014	1 TABLET- ACER		1
MANY	47 PHONE- GOOGLE		47
905680	1 MONITOR- NEC		1
36681	1 CHROMEBOOK- G9 EE		1
MANY	11 SWITCH- CISCO		11

700179	1 SMARTBOARD	1
33820	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON	1
905628	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON	1
100330	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100331	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100332	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100333	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100334	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100335	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100336	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100338	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100437	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100484	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100483	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100494	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
100495	1 Camcrdr - Flip Ultra U1120B	1
34000	1 CHROMBOOK 100 G2	1
35518	1 CHROMBOOK 100 G2	1
100785	1 AMP- BG 115	1
MANY	81 CHROMBOOK- 100e G2	81
36692	1 CHROMEBOOK- 11MK-G9	1
28417	1 PROJECTOR- EPSON	1
900538	1 SMARTBOARD	1
29450	1 PROBOOK- HP 430	1
987	1 PROBOOK- HP 430	1
39363	1 CHROMEBOOK- HP	1
34130	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
36063	1 Lenovo 14e	1
34707	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34729	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34624	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34676	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
35561	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34699	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34710	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34697	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34637	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
34635	1 Lenovo 100e G2 MTK	1
987	1 ProBook	1
29797	1 Desktop 790	1
29808	1 Desktop 790	1
29821	1 Desktop 790	1
29814	1 Desktop 790	1

29835	1 Desktop 790	1
37518	1 CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 300e	1
33476	1 CHROMEBOOK- LENOVO 300e	1

422

32

390

Transportation Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
51017	1	GRINDER		1
51000	1	GINDER		1
51032	1	COMPRESSOR- AIR		1
51057	1	PARTS WASHER		1
4		0 4		

Maintenance Department

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

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Leslie Alexander, Superintendent
Members, Watauga County Board of Education

FROM: Joseph Nash, Finance Officer

DATE: July 14, 2025

RE: 2024-25 Budget Amendment #6

Attached is Budget Amendment #6 that changes totals in Watauga County Schools 2024-25 adopted budget.

After approval of this Budget Amendment, the budget for all funds will appear as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Adopted Budget</u>	<u>Amendments</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>
Local Current Expense	\$ 18,065,022	\$ 0	\$ 18,065,022
State Public School	38,136,347	1,038,916	39,175,263
Federal Grants	2,630,695	50,887	2,681,582
School Nutrition	2,581,900	0	2,581,900
Extended Learning Centers	725,550	0	725,550
Capital Outlay	5,082,017	255,000	5,337,017
Special Revenue/Scholarship	2,961,041	447,240	3,408,281
Total	\$ 70,182,572	\$ 1,792,043	\$ 71,974,615

Watauga County Schools
BUDGET AMENDMENT #6
July 14, 2025

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

BA #6-1 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget additional appropriations received from the State.

Summer School Funds	\$463,916
Employee Benefit Payouts	\$520,000
<u>Revised Dollar Amount for Position Allotments</u>	<u>\$55,000</u>
 Total Revenue	 \$1,038,916

Above revenue is budgeted to the following purpose codes:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.5000.000.000.000	Instructional Services	863,916
1.6000.000.000.000	Support Services	160,000
1.7000.000.000.000	Ancillary Services	15,000

BA #6-2 Explanation:

This amendment is to move budgeted funds from the 6000 purpose code to the 5000 and 7000 purpose codes. Prior to this, all local supplements were paid from the 6000 purpose code (support services). Now, supplements are paid from 5000, 6000, and 7000 purpose codes to more accurately reflect the area where each employee works.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2.5000.000.000.000	Instructional Services	500,000
2.6000.000.000.000	Support Services	-530,000
2.7000.000.000.000	Ancillary Services	30,000

Watauga County Schools
BUDGET AMENDMENT #6
July 14, 2025

BA #6-3 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget additional appropriations received from Federal, and to reflect minor changes in the budget between purpose codes.

IDEA Additional Allotment Grant Year 4	\$38,016
IDEA Preschool Targeted Assistance Grant Year 4	\$1,798
IDEA Special Needs Targeted Assistance Grant Year 5	\$1,500
IDEA Special Needs Targeted Assistance Grant Year 4	\$8,580
<u>Title III Additional Allotment</u>	<u>\$993</u>

Total Revenue	\$50,887
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Above revenue is budgeted to the following purpose codes:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
3.5000.000.000.000	Instructional Services	50,489
3.8000.000.000.000	Indirect Costs & Unbudgeted Funds	398

BA #6-4 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget indirect costs in the Child Nutrition and Extended Learning/Afterschool programs. These indirect costs are charged to these programs by the school district to help cover overhead costs. In this amendment, we are reclassifying unused budget from purpose code 7000, ancillary services, to purpose code 8000, non-programmed charges.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
5.7000.000.000.000	Ancillary Services	-50,000
5.8000.000.000.000	Non-Programmed Charges	50,000
6.7000.000.000.000	Ancillary Services	-50,000
6.8000.000.000.000	Non-Programmed Charges	50,000

Watauga County Schools
BUDGET AMENDMENT #6
July 14, 2025

BA #6-5 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget an additional amount required to place a purchase order for the new playgrounds at the new Valle Crucis Elementary School. The playgrounds will be paid for by Watauga County within their new school budget. However, since we placed the physical order, we are required to budget the amount in our books. This will be resolved in our 25-26 budget.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4.5000.000.000.000	Instructional Services	255,000

BA #6-6 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget additional appropriations received into our Special Revenue Fund.

FEMA Proceeds	\$392,340
Donations	\$10,900
Belk Grant for Summer School	\$25,000
<u>Reimbursements for National Board Certifications</u>	<u>\$19,000</u>
 Total Revenue	 \$447,240

Above revenue is budgeted to the following purpose codes:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
8.5000.000.000.000	Instructional Services	44,000
8.7000.000.000.000	Ancillary Services	403,240



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center
175 Pioneer Trail, Boone, NC 28607

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Leslie Alexander, Superintendent
Members, Watauga County Board of Education

FROM: Joseph Nash, Finance Officer

DATE: June 24, 2025

RE: Request for Adoption of Interim Continuing Budget Resolution

Background Information:

According to North Carolina statute, school systems are required to operate under an adopted budget. Because the North Carolina biennium budget for 2025-26 and 2026-27 is not yet finalized, the Department of Public Instruction cannot compute and distribute State and Federal allotments by the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2025. Until State and Federal allotments are finalized, the 2025-26 budget resolution for Watauga County Schools cannot be prepared.

Consideration:

Pursuant to General Statute 115 C-434, an interim budget will meet statutory requirements for operating under an adopted budget. In order for Watauga County Schools to disburse funds in the new fiscal year until allotments are received and the budget resolution can be prepared, we ask the Board to adopt an interim budget, effective July 1, 2025. The interim budget will allow disbursements to continue at the 2024-25 levels until Watauga County Schools receives their State and Federal allotments and a final budget resolution can be approved.

Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook

Watauga County Schools

2025-2026

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WATAUGA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook August 2021

Overview/Introduction

Watauga County Schools (WCS) is committed to preparing students to be successful citizens in a global economy. Within the Global Learning Communities, WCS has implemented a Mobile Computing Device program for one-to-one computing. Now in its twelfth year, the one-to-one initiative in WCS continues to immerse our students into a technology-rich instructional environment to help ensure that our graduates are prepared for the workplace and life. Each school has an Instructional Technology Facilitator (ITF) on campus to assist students and staff with technology needs.

Students and parents must have an understanding of the procedures and policies for this program to be successful. Please read and sign the following student and parent guidelines/agreement. The signed Mobile Computing Device and Responsible Use Agreements establish a contract for the rules and responsibilities agreed to by the parties involved in the Mobile Computing Device program (i.e. WCS, the student, and the parents/guardians).

WCS Learning Goals

- Promote student learning beyond the classroom.
- Prepare students to be safe, responsible, and innovative digital citizens.
- Engage students in solving real-world problems by collaborating, communicating, creating and critically thinking within a global learning community.
- Enable students to be responsible for their own learning.
- Support faculty in the development of an interdisciplinary, project-based learning environment.

Deployment

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed by letter, email, and/or a phone message, of the location, date, and time of the mandatory one-to-one logistics. The parent and student must sign the Agreement in order for the student to be issued a Mobile Computing Device.

A. Prior to students being issued a Mobile Computing Device:

1. Parent/guardian must attend an orientation/meeting (mandatory for freshmen and new students at WHS and all students at K-8 schools)
2. Parent/guardian and student must sign Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Agreement and WCS Responsible Use Policy
3. WCS must receive payment of school fee (includes the Mobile Computing Device fee) - \$20 for all students

B. WCS will send a report of all model, asset and serial numbers of student Mobile Computing Devices to local pawn shops and law enforcement agencies to assist in the event of loss or theft.

Note: As Watauga County Schools is providing a Mobile Computing Device for each student in Watauga County Schools, grades K-12, in order to meet the educational needs of the students, personal Mobile Computing Devices will not be permitted for use on the school network.

Mobile Computing Device Loan

Terms of Loan

1. WCS will issue a Mobile Computing Device to each student upon completion of the requirements listed in the ***Deployment*** section above, (Item A).
2. The Mobile Computing Device is either leased or owned by Watauga County Schools. A student's right of possession and use is limited to and conditioned upon full and complete compliance with the Board Policy - [Technology Responsible Use](#) policy code #3225/4312/7320, [Internet Safety](#) policy code #3226/4205, and other Guidelines as outlined in the Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook.
3. If a student violates the policies and guidelines outlined in the Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook and/or the [Technology Responsible Use](#) policy, including intentional damage, he/she may be subject to loss of privilege, disciplinary action and/or legal action.
4. A student's possession of the Mobile Computing Device terminates no later than the last day of the school year unless there is a reason for earlier termination by the District (including but not limited to, drop-out, expulsion, or transfer).
5. The Mobile Computing Devices will be covered by an Accidental Damage Policy as explained under the section titled "***Damage.***"
6. If a Mobile Computing Device is damaged, every effort will be made to repair the device in a timely manner. Loaner devices may be provided in exceptional circumstances.

Loss or Theft

Theft is determined by a police report documenting forced entry to a secured place containing the Mobile Computing Device or forcibly taking the Mobile Computing Device in any way from a student. Missing devices should be reported to the School Resource Officer, who will determine if the Mobile Computing Device was stolen. The burden is on the student to truthfully report the computer theft and articulate the details for the police report.

1. Insurance is included, as part of the student fee, to reduce the cost/liability in the event of theft.
2. In the event of theft, a replacement fee of up to \$250 will be assessed to the student/parent. The amount of the fee will be determined using the Lost or Stolen Device Procedure flowchart (included on page 6). We encourage parents to claim this theft on their home or vehicle insurance, if applicable. If a personal insurance policy will reimburse the value of a stolen device, the family must notify the school so they can be billed for the reimbursement amount.
3. WCS will coordinate with the SRO (or local law enforcement) to alert pawn shops and area law enforcement agencies of lost or stolen Mobile Computing Devices.

Loss is defined as a Mobile Computing Device reported missing by a student while it was left unattended or in an unsecured/unsupervised location. The burden is on the student to truthfully report the computer loss and articulate the details for the administrative report.

1. Lost Mobile Computing Devices must be reported to a school administrator and the WCS Student Help Desk no later than 48 hours after the device is noticed to be missing.
2. The student or parent/guardian will be responsible for the total cost of the Mobile Computing Device in the event the lost Mobile Computing Device is not found. Loss is not covered by insurance. The purchase price and insured value, of the Mobile Computing Device is \$250, which is the maximum cost a parent/guardian would be responsible for.

Damage

1. WCS will provide *Accidental Damage Protection* for student Mobile Computing Devices.
2. The *Accidental Damage Policy* will provide coverage to repair, rebuild or replace the damaged Mobile Computing Device with another of like kind and quality, whichever is less.
3. If there are multiple instances of damage, occurring at different times during the school year, there will be a tiered deductible due for each insurance claim. When additional claims are made by the same student for damages, the following tiered costs will be assessed:
 - a. 1st instance = \$0
 - b. 2nd instance = \$50
 - c. 3rd instance = \$75
 - d. 4th instance = \$100 and disciplinary action will be taken
 - e. Lost/excessively damaged device = \$250
 - f. Lost/damaged power cord \$35
4. **The student and/or the student's parent/guardian shall be responsible for compensating the school district for any losses, costs, or damages that are not covered by the *Accidental Damage Policy*. The student and/or parent/guardian is liable for replacement(s) costs resulting from intentional damage and/or neglect as outlined in this document.**
5. If unapproved changes or software installs are made to the Mobile Computing Device, the Mobile Computing Device will be re-imaged/reset to its original configuration and the student may be subject to disciplinary action.

Repossession

WCS reserves the right to repossess the Mobile Computing Device at any time if the student does not fully comply with all terms of this agreement. Computers left unattended will be turned in to the WCS Help Desk or appropriate building personnel.

Appropriation

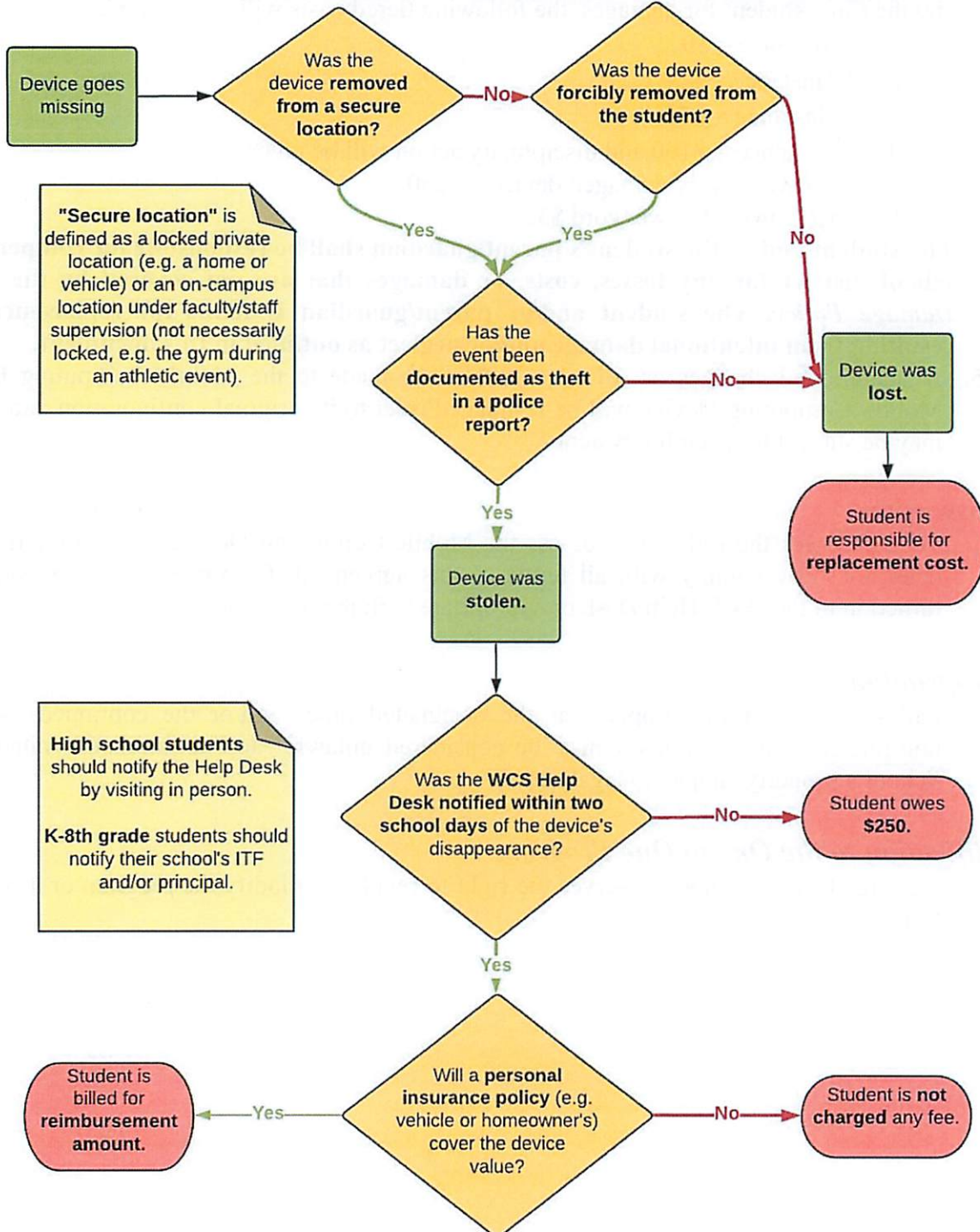
Failure to return the property at the designated times and/or the continued use of it for non-related school purposes may be considered unlawful appropriation of Watauga County School's property subject to legal action.

Modification to the One to One Program

Watauga County Schools reserves the right to revoke or modify the program or its terms at any time.



Lost or Stolen Device Procedure: Fee Assessment



This flowchart represents the procedure outlined on page five of the Watauga County Schools *Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook*, which is available on the district website.

Expectation of Privacy for Student Mobile Computing Devices

1. The Mobile Computing Devices are considered property of Watauga County Schools and are not subject to the same privacy expectations as private property. However, there is a limited expectation of privacy afforded to the student Mobile Computing Devices when taken off a WCS campus.
2. While connected to the WCS network (on our school campuses), WCS has the right to monitor the Mobile Computing Devices in the following ways:
 - a. Teachers and administrators may remotely view and control student Mobile Computing Devices while in class. This is required for effective classroom management.
 - b. Teachers and administrators may search the device for inappropriate material if they have reasonable suspicion of its existence.
 - c. Technology staff will have the ability to remotely control student Mobile Computing Devices to troubleshoot technical issues.
 - d. Technology staff will have the ability to monitor all network traffic to troubleshoot network issues.
 - e. All Internet traffic will pass through the content filter. This filter will log all attempts to access inappropriate material. Repeated attempts will result in disciplinary action.
 - f. Restrictions on the Mobile Computing Device will block the student from certain functions such as accessing administrative software or installing certain programs/apps or extensions. Any attempt to circumvent these restrictions, on or off campus, will be seen as a violation of this contract and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
3. While not connected to the WCS network, the following will apply:
 - a. All Internet traffic will pass through a local copy of the WCS content filter. This filter will log all attempts to access inappropriate material. Repeated attempts may result in disciplinary action.
 - b. The district will not have the right or ability to remotely access the Mobile Computing Device's web camera.
 - c. Restrictions on the Mobile Computing Device will block the student from certain functions such as accessing administrative software or installing certain programs/apps or extensions. Any attempt to circumvent these restrictions, on or off campus, will be seen as a violation of this contract and appropriate disciplinary action may be taken.

General Use of the Mobile Computing Device

Each 6-12th grade student is required to bring his/her Mobile Computing Device to school each day, transported in the school-issued protective case/sleeve, with a fully charged battery. Each K-5th grade student will keep their device at school unless a specific learning activity requires it to be sent home as requested by the teacher or if a remote learning day is anticipated. In this situation, the device must be transported in the school-issued protective case/sleeve. Students will not be given the use of a loaner Mobile Computing Device if he/she leaves his/her Device at home or fails to charge the Device. Students leaving Mobile Computing Devices at home will be required to complete assignments using alternate means (as determined by the teacher).

1. A small area for downloading/accessing files is provided on the Mobile Computing Device. If a Mobile Computing Device is experiencing a technical issue, it is likely to be reimaged/reset, which will destroy all local data that is not backed up.
2. Students should be mindful not to cause a tripping hazard when it is necessary to plug in their Mobile Computing Devices both at home and school.
3. Mobile Computing Devices are not allowed on overnight trips or field trips without the express written approval of the lead chaperone and/or teacher and the parent/guardian.
4. The use of the Internet at school is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in suspension/termination of user privileges.
5. Student Mobile Computing Devices will be subject to routine monitoring by teachers, administrators, and technology staff as described in the “*Expectation of Privacy...*” section. While off campus, parental monitoring is highly recommended.
6. Periodic Mobile Computing Device checks will be conducted during the school year, inspecting for physical damage and/or loss. Students/parents may be billed for repairs throughout the school year in accordance with the procedures described in the “*Mobile Computing Device Loan*” section, subsection “*Damage.*”

Login Procedures

1. Students will log in to the WCS network by using their assigned username and password whether using the device on a WCS campus or at home.
2. Do not share passwords. Students are responsible for anything done using their login information, regardless of the actual user of the Device.

Email

1. WCS will provide email accounts to students through Google Apps.
2. Students will abide by all email guidelines as outlined in the WCS Board Policy – [Technology Responsible Use](#) #3225/4312/7320.

Online user accounts

Students may be asked to create age-appropriate online user accounts, (e.g. Quizlet, flipgrid) for educational purposes only. Teachers will be responsible for supervising the use of these accounts during instructional time. Parents/guardians will be notified of the use of such accounts either within the course syllabus at the beginning of each semester or through other means deemed appropriate and timely by the teacher and/or administrator.

Usage Guidelines to avoid Repetitive Stress Injuries (Ergonomics)

Ergonomics is defined as the science of making things fit people instead of asking people to fit things. Ergonomics uses knowledge from anatomy, mechanics, physiology and psychology to utilize human energy most effectively. Please read the following guidelines to promote safe, comfortable and efficient use of the student Mobile Computing Device.

1. The school-issued protective case/sleeve is designed to carry the MCD either separately or in a student's backpack.
2. Use a pillow, folded blanket or towel to raise the seat high enough so that your elbows are bent at about 90 degrees and hands and wrists are in a neutral posture. If the chair is not high enough or the work surface is not low enough, place the Mobile Computing Device on your lap, but make sure your knees are level with your hips.

3. Reduce pressure on your neck by tucking in your chin to view the monitor rather than bending your neck down. If possible, lower your eyes instead of bending your head forward to see the screen.
4. Make sure the screen is adjusted to minimize glare.
5. Take frequent mini breaks and change your work posture often. For example, place the Mobile Computing Device in your lap to achieve better wrist position for approximately 30 minutes. Then, switch and place the Mobile Computing Device on a table to achieve better neck position.
6. The arm support and padding of work surfaces is also important when working at a table or desk with hard leading edges. Use a pillow or folded towel as a wrist rest or arm support while typing.
7. If seated in a chair that does not provide adequate lumbar support, use a rolled up towel or small pillow as a lumbar support device.

General Care of the Mobile Computing Device

1. Students are responsible for the Mobile Computing Device they have been issued. Mobile Computing Devices in need of repair must be reported to the WCS Help Desk. Failure to report damage by the next school day may result in disciplinary action.
2. Guidelines to follow:
 1. Always close the lid before moving and/or transporting your Mobile Computing Device, taking care not to close the lid on objects inside it.
 2. For prolonged periods of inactivity, you should shut down the Device completely before closing the lid in order to conserve the battery.
 3. Please be aware that overloading a student's backpack will cause damage. Please store the Mobile Computing Device in a separate section of the backpack, using the school-issued protective case/sleeve to store the device inside a student backpack. Textbooks, notebooks, binders, etc. should not be in the same section of the backpack as the Mobile Computing Device itself. Never sit or place any object on the backpack.
 4. When using the Mobile Computing Device, keep it on a flat, solid surface so that air can circulate. For example, using a Mobile Computing Device while it is directly on a bed or carpet can cause damage due to overheating.
 5. Liquids, food and other debris can damage the Mobile Computing Device. You should avoid eating or drinking while using the Mobile Computing Device. DO NOT keep food or food wrappers in the Mobile Computing Device bag.
 6. Take extreme caution with the screen. The screens are very susceptible to damage from excessive pressure or weight. In particular, avoid picking up the Mobile Computing Device by the screen. K-1st grade devices have a touch screen which is to be touched with fingers or a stylus.
 7. Dimming the LCD brightness of your screen will extend the battery run time. For help, consult your teacher, technician or technology specialist.
 8. Never attempt repair or reconfiguration of the Mobile Computing Device. Under no circumstances are you to attempt to open or tamper with the internal components of the Mobile Computing Device. Nor should you remove any screws; doing so will render the warranty void and may result in disciplinary action.
 9. Take care when inserting cords, cables and other removable storage devices to avoid damage to the Mobile Computing Device ports.
 10. Do not expose your Mobile Computing Device to extreme temperatures or direct sunlight for extended periods of time. Extreme heat or cold may cause damage to the Mobile Computing Device.
 11. Keep your Mobile Computing Device away from magnetic fields, which can erase or corrupt your data. This includes but is not limited to large speakers, amplifiers, transformers, and old style television sets.

Cleaning Your Mobile Computing Device

Routine maintenance on Mobile Computing Devices will be done by the school technology support personnel. However, students are encouraged to perform simple cleaning procedures as outlined below:

1. Always disconnect the Mobile Computing Device from the power outlet before cleaning.
2. Never use liquids directly on the Mobile Computing Device screen or keyboard.
3. Clean the screen with soft, lightly dampened, lint free cloth or use anti-static screen cleaners or wipes.
4. Wash hands frequently when using the Mobile Computing Device to avoid buildup on the touch pad. Grease and dirt can cause the cursor to jump around on the screen
5. Clean the touch pad with a lightly dampened cloth.

General Security

1. Never leave your Mobile Computing Device unattended or unsecured. Mobile Computing Devices should be secured in a designated storage facility or a secured locker. Unsupervised Mobile Computing Devices will be confiscated by staff, and disciplinary actions may be taken.
2. Each Mobile Computing Device has several identifying labels (i.e., WCS asset number and serial number). Under no circumstances are you to modify or destroy these labels.

Internet Access/Filtering

1. As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, a current content filtering solution is maintained by the district for school use on this Mobile Computing Device. This is a "good faith" effort to block all inappropriate content, but the district cannot guarantee that access to all inappropriate sites will be blocked because no content filter is 100% effective. It is the responsibility of the user and parent/guardian to follow guidelines for appropriate use of the network and the Internet. WCS will not be responsible for any problems suffered while on the network or the Internet. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's own risk.
2. A local copy of the district content Internet filter will continue to filter content outside the WCS network (e.g. when the student is connected to a home wireless network). It is the responsibility of the user and parent/guardian to follow guidelines for appropriate use of the Internet. WCS will not be responsible for any problems suffered while on the Internet. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's own risk.
3. Attempting to disable or circumvent Watauga County Schools' Internet content filter and firewall, including using or attempting to use proxies to access sites that would otherwise be restricted, is not permitted and may result in disciplinary action.

Copyright

Compliance with federal copyright law is expected of all. "Copyright" is legal protection for creative intellectual works, which is broadly interpreted to cover just about any expression of an idea. Text (including email and Web information), graphics, art, photographs, music, and software are examples of types of works protected by copyright. Copying, distributing, downloading, and uploading information on the Internet may infringe the copyright for that information. Even an innocent, unintentional infringement violates the law. Utilizing sites selling written papers, book reports, and other student work or any act of plagiarism is not permitted.

Empowered Use Guidelines¹

By providing technology to students, Watauga County Schools empowers them to create, collaborate, communicate, and think critically as citizens in a rapidly changing global society. To this end, we encourage students to engage in the following behaviors when using their technology:

1. Be responsible with your WCS-issued device and the WCS network.

- a. Use only your own WCS-issued device on the WCS network.
- b. Take your device to your school's ITF and/or the WHS Help Desk if it is in need of repairs.
- c. Use your device in the same condition it was issued to you. Leave the case and internal parts intact, carry the device in its protective case/sleeve, and please don't decorate the device itself with stickers or other markings.
- d. Use the district network as it is configured (e.g. access authorized resources, log in using your own credentials, work within the content filter and/or firewall).
- e. Avoid activities that could cause network congestion (e.g. streaming high-quality audio or video).
- f. In general, use your WCS-issued device and the WCS network for legal, school-appropriate activity.

2. Be respectful of yourself and others by demonstrating strong digital citizenship.

- a. Properly cite all digital resources, and honor copyright and Creative Commons licensing.
- b. Engage in positive conversations online; seek to listen, understand, and build a strong digital school community.
- c. Use only the username(s) and password(s) issued specifically to you by WCS.
- d. If you ever encounter digital content that concerns you or makes you uncomfortable, speak to a teacher or another adult in your school for help.

3. Be empowered to use technology for great things.

- a. Communicate clearly and respectfully to share your thoughts, expand your knowledge, and generate new ideas.
- b. Think critically about all information you encounter online, and seek out corroborating evidence and contrasting viewpoints to build fully-informed viewpoints.
- c. Collaborate with fellow learners – whether in Watauga County or around the globe – to teach, learn, and create together.
- d. Create new, unique, awe-inspiring work – writing, video, music, visual art, or whatever else you can imagine – to show the world what you know and are capable of.

¹ Inspired by and adapted from McLeod, S. (2014, March 21). Instead of an AUP, how about an EUP (Empowered Use Policy)? Retrieved May 09, 2017, from <http://dangerouslyirrelevant.org/2014/03/instead-of-an-aup-how-about-an-eup-empowered-use-policy.html>

Parent Expectations

1. This is an exciting learning opportunity for your student(s). Participate with them as they learn to use this instructional tool to enhance their educational experience.
2. While the school system does provide Internet content filtering for the security of your student, there is no substitute for parental supervision when using the Mobile Computing Device. Parents are ultimately responsible for monitoring student use of the Mobile Computing Device and Internet at home.
3. Parents should review the Watauga County Technology Responsible Use policy and the Mobile Computing Device Handbook with their child to ensure they are familiar with and adhere to these policies and guidelines.
4. Parents should ensure that repairs, loss, theft and/or damages are reported to the WHS Help Desk no later than the next school day.
5. Parents should review the Watauga County Technology Responsible Use policy and the Mobile Computing Device Handbook with their child.
6. Use of the Mobile Computing Device by other family members is not allowed. Parents/legal guardians may use the Mobile Computing Devices to assist their child who is assigned the Mobile Computing Device with homework and school assignments or to learn what their student is doing with this instructional tool. The Mobile Computing Devices may not be used by other family members for personal or business use.
7. Parents are responsible for ensuring the return of the Mobile Computing Device and all accessories at the end of the current school year or before the student withdraws from school.

NOTE: Students who are 18 years or older or who are legally deemed an emancipated minor are considered adult students and assume a legal, ethical and financial obligations related to using the Mobile Computing Device.

Watauga County Schools One-to-One Mobile Computing Device Initiative

Student Mobile Computing Device Agreement

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE **PARENT AND STUDENT**. PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

Student Last Name	Student First Name	Student Middle Name	Student Grade
Parent/Guardian Last Name	Parent/Guardian First Name	Student ID #	
Home Phone	Work Phone	Cell Phone	Other Phone

I, the Watauga County Schools (WCS) student named above, have read (or have had read to me) WCS Technology Responsible Use policy (#3225/4312/7320). My signature below indicates I understand and will abide by this policy and the procedures and guidelines in the WCS Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook at all times. I understand that should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

- ✓ I understand the Mobile Computing Device ("Device") is property of Watauga County Schools and is assigned to me.
- ✓ I will use my assigned Device appropriately for school purposes.
- ✓ I will care for my assigned Device and not leave it unsupervised in unsecured locations.
- ✓ I will be responsible for all damage or loss to my assigned Device caused by neglect or abuse.
- ✓ I will report the loss or theft of my assigned Device as outlined in the Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook.
- ✓ I will not loan my assigned Device to another individual.
- ✓ I will charge my assigned Device before each school day.
- ✓ I will not disassemble or attempt any repairs on my assigned Device.
- ✓ I will carry my assigned Device in its school-issued protective sleeve/case.
- ✓ I will not place stickers, drawings, markers, etc. on my assigned Device.
- ✓ I will not deface the serial number/asset number stickers on my assigned Device.
- ✓ I agree to return my assigned Device, power cord, and other accessories in working condition.
- ✓ I understand I may be criminally charged if my assigned Device is not returned at the designated time.

Student Signature	Date
Parent Signature	Date

Parent / Guardian Agreement for Student Use of Mobile Computing Device

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE **PARENT/GUARDIAN**. PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

I, the parent/guardian of the student named below, hereby give permission for my child to use the Mobile Computing Device and network resources provided by Watauga County Schools. I have read (or have had read to me) Watauga County Schools' Technology Responsible Use policy (#3225/4312/7320) and the WCS Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook. I understand the Mobile Computing Device is property of Watauga County Schools and is assigned to my student for learning purposes only.

I understand that network/Internet access is intended for educational purposes. Watauga County Schools, in accordance with federal law and WCS Board Policy #3226/4205, provides technology protection measures (i.e. network filtering) to restrict my child's access to questionable materials. If my student uses the Mobile Computing Device at home, I accept responsibility for my child's Internet activity during home use of the Device.

I understand parents/guardians/adult students will file a police report in case of theft/vandalism and will be responsible for insurance deductible in the event of accidental damage.

- 1st instance = \$0
- 2nd instance = \$50
- 3rd instance = \$75
- 4th instance = \$100 and disciplinary action will be taken
- Lost device/excessive damage = \$250
- Lost/damaged power cord = \$35

Student Name (*please print*)Parent/Guardian Name *(please print)*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date _____

Student Responsible Use Policy Assent and Equipment Receipt / Return Log

[illegible]

Watauga County Schools One-to-One Mobile Computing Device Initiative

Parent / Guardian Agreement for Student Use of Mobile Computing Device

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE **PARENT/GUARDIAN**. PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION.

I, the parent/guardian of the student named below, hereby give permission for my child to use the Mobile Computing Device and network resources provided by Watauga County Schools. I have read (or have had read to me) Watauga County Schools' Technology Responsible Use policy (#3225/4312/7320) and the WCS Student/Parent Mobile Computing Device Handbook. I understand the Mobile Computing Device is property of Watauga County Schools and is assigned to my student for learning purposes only.

I understand that network/Internet access is intended for educational purposes. Watauga County Schools, in accordance with federal law and WCS Board Policy #3226/4205, provides technology protection measures (i.e. network filtering) to restrict my child's access to questionable materials. If my student uses the Mobile Computing Device at home, I accept responsibility for my child's Internet activity during home use of the Device.

I understand parents/guardians/adult students will file a police report in case of theft/vandalism and will be responsible for insurance deductible in the event of accidental damage.

- 1st instance = \$0
- 2nd instance = \$50
- 3rd instance = \$75
- 4th instance = \$100 and disciplinary action will be taken
- Lost device/excessive damage = \$250
- Lost/damaged power cord = \$35

Student Name *(please print)*

Parent/Guardian Name *(please print)*

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Responsible Use Policy Assent and Equipment Receipt / Return Log

		9th	10th	11th	12th
Device Asset #					
Device Serial #					
RUP Assent	Init.				
	Date				
Equip. Issued	Init.				
	Date				
Equip. Ret'd	Init.				
	Date				

WCS Student Fees

1:1 Technology Fee	School Fee	Total
\$10	\$10	\$20

The 1:1 Technology Fee covers Accidental Damage Policy which will provide coverage to repair, rebuild, or replace the damaged Mobile Computing Device with another of like kind and quality, whichever is less. If multiple instances of damage, occurring at different times during the school year, there will be a tiered deductible due for each claim. The following costs will be assessed for accidental damage:

- 1st instance - \$0
- 2nd instance - \$50
- 3rd instance - \$75
- 4th instance - \$100 and disciplinary action will be taken
- Lost/excessively damaged device - \$250
- Lost/damaged power cord - \$35

Watauga County Schools
2025-2026
After School Rates and Fees
Presented to the BOE ##/##/####

AFTER SCHOOL - MONTHLY FEES PER CHILD

<u># days per</u>	<u>REGULAR</u>	<u>**Reduced</u>	<u>WCS</u>
<u>week</u>	<u>RATE</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Employee</u>
		<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
* 3 days or less,	\$215.00	N/A	\$40.00
4	\$280.00	\$140.00	\$47.00
5	\$290.00	\$145.00	\$57.00

HOLIDAY/SNOW DAY PROGRAM FEES- PER DAY, PER CHILD

1	\$35.00	\$18.00	\$10
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*The reduced rate is available only to low-income families who do not qualify for child care subsidies from the Department of Social Services and who meet specific criteria.

**Increase in rates from 2024-25 (between \$2-5 per schedule) due to salary/hourly employee rate increases.

Other fees and charges:

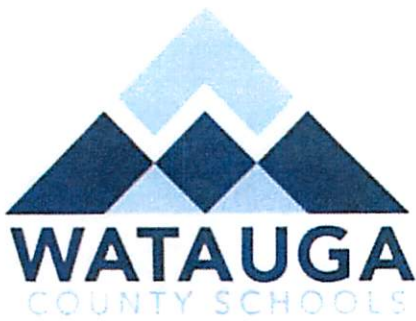
Unscheduled use rate After-school: \$35/day

Late payment fee: \$10.00 first 2 times, \$15.00 thereafter

Late pickup charge: \$1.00 per minute after 6:00

Returned check fee: Determined and collected by a private contractor – not a revenue to the after-school program.

Last Revision
##/##/####



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

School Nutrition Program Monica C. Bolick, Director

**2025/26 School Year
School Nutrition
Contract Approvals**

June 24, 2025

New bids or proposals were recently received and opened for the Distributor Fixed Fee Delivery (Groceries, Produce, Supplies) product lines. Bid packets were requested from a variety of vendors across all categories. As required, bids were advertised to solicit open and competitive bidding.

Other product line vendors agreed on renewals for the upcoming school year.

New and renewal contract recommendations are detailed on the following pages.

Dairy Products

DFA Dairy Brands Fluid, LLC, dba Pet Dairy, has agreed to renew their contract for the 2025/26 school year. Pet Dairy provides excellent service to each of our schools and is proud of the positive relationship they have maintained with WCS for many years. The original terms and conditions of the bid remain applicable throughout the renewal period.

The total cost of the bid based on estimated usage is approximately \$125,000.

High School Beverage Products

Dr. Pepper Bottling of West Jefferson has agreed to renew their contract for the 2025/26 school year. Dr. Pepper provides excellent service to Watauga High School and has been a vendor partner for many years. The original terms and conditions of the bid remain applicable throughout the renewal period.

The total cost of the bid based on estimated usage is approximately \$30,000.

Ice Cream Products

WNC Ice Cream Distributors has agreed to renew their contract for the 2025/26 school year. WNC Ice Cream Dist. has agreed to maintain current pricing for the upcoming school year. The original terms and conditions of the bid remain applicable throughout the renewal period.

The total cost of the bid based on estimated usage is approximately \$30,000.

Personal Pizza Products

It is the recommendation of the School Nutrition Department to renew the personal pizza products bid for the 2025/26 school year.

Bull's Eye Brands (Smart Mouth Pizza) requested a minimal price increase on two items, corrugated pizza boxes and whole grain pizza crusts. After evaluation of the price increase request, it was determined that the increase is fair and equitable. Documentation and proof of market conditions were submitted to justify the price change. The original terms and conditions of the bid remain applicable throughout the renewal period.

The total cost of the bid based on estimated usage is approximately \$50,000.

Distributor Fixed Fee Delivery (Groceries, Supplies and Produce)

NC Procurement Alliance Distributor Fixed Fee Delivery bids for Groceries, Supplies and Produce were opened in Raleigh, NC on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Bids were solicited from a variety of vendors across all product lines.

After an extensive bid analysis and corrections, as well as the required audit performed by the NC Procurement Alliance it is my recommendation to award US Foods-Ft. Mill the distributor bid for groceries and fresh produce for the 2025/26 school year. We have done business with US Foods in the past and had a very positive working relationship with the company and their representatives. It is my recommendation to award the supplies bid to Southeastern Paper/Brady Supplies for the supply bid. This is a new vendor for Watauga who came in with very aggressive pricing and delivery fees. Estimated costs for the bids based on projected usage are as follows:

Groceries:	\$617,000.00
Supplies:	\$ 43,000.00
Produce:	\$ 57,000.00

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



Monica C. Bolick
Director of School Nutrition



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

School Nutrition Program Monica C. Bolick, Director

Meal Price Increase School Year 2025/26 June 24, 2025

BREAKFAST	Current Price	Proposed Price
Grades PK-12	\$1.75	\$2.25
Non-Student	A la carte prices per item	A la carte prices per item

LUNCH	Current Price	Proposed Price
Grades PK-8	\$3.00	\$3.50
Grades 9-12	\$3.25	\$3.75
Non-Student	\$5.00	\$6.00

Background

- Review of meal prices began in 2010 with Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act.
- USDA provided Paid Lunch Equity Tool to LEA's for use in calculating meal prices based on meals served, current meal prices, consumer price index, program fund balance.
- Last meal price increase in Watauga was in 2022/23 school year.

Rationale for Proposal

- Payroll and benefits continue to increase due to salary increases which began in July 2022.
- The supply chain continues to be unpredictable. Produce prices fluctuate weekly making plate costs rise.
- USDA continues to strengthen nutritional standards (reducing sodium & added sugars, increasing whole grain requirements) causing manufacturers to increase prices on school only items.
 - Examples:
 - Cheese Pizza on 21/22 bid \$0.36 per slice, current cost \$0.64 each – 78% increase
 - Chicken Filet on 21/22 bid \$.68 per filet, current cost \$0.93 each – 37% increase
 - Breakfast Chicken on 21/22 bid \$0.38 per filet, current cost \$0.53 each – 39% increase
 - Pork Sausage Patty on 21/22 bid \$0.25 per patty, current cost \$0.41 each – 64% increase
 - French Toast Sticks on 21/22 bid \$0.29 per serving, current cost \$0.45 per serving – 55% increase
- The proposed increase in meal price this school year could possibly minimize the amount of increase next year.
- Students in NC who qualify for reduced price meals eat both breakfast and lunch at no charge.
- The free and reduced price meal application is an online application process and all families are encouraged to complete the application. The income guidelines change each year.

Proposed Title I Budget SY 2025-2026

Federal Planning Allocation for 2025-2026	\$664, 870
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Carryover/ Unbudgeted Reserve from SY 24-25 Approx. \$60, 000

Difference from SY 24-25 (w/out Carryover)	-\$8, 254
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District Administrative Costs	\$39, 892 (6% of Federal Allocation)
School Professional Development	\$33, 244 (5% of Federal Allocation)
School Parent Involvement	\$6, 649 (1% of Federal Allocation)
Homeless/ Foster Care	\$2, 000
Total Combined District Set-Asides	\$81, 785

School Allotments from Federal Allocation <i>(See Page 2 for Individual School Totals)</i>	\$583, 085 + \$60, 000 (Carryover) = \$643, 085
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Additional Information

Required Per Pupil Allotment	\$335.46
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Actual WCS Per Pupil Allotment Based on Poverty Bands*	100%- 50.0% Poverty = \$913 (B, GV, M) 49.9%- 40.0% Poverty = \$475 (CC, HP, VC)
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FORMULAS:

***Poverty Band Formula is \$ amount X the number of Free + Reduced in Eligibility Report**

**** Parental Involvement Formula is allotment (\$6, 649)/ 1022 (total Free + Reduced at eligible schools = \$6.50 X Free + Reduced at selected schools = allocation**

*****Professional Development is allotment (\$33, 244)/ 209 (total # of teachers in served schools based on Comparability Report) = \$159.06 X number of teachers at selected schools**

2025-2026 School Allocations

(Paid by district plan)

School	Allotment	Parent Involvement**	Professional Development***
Bethel	\$63, 910	\$455	\$3, 022
Cove Creek	\$59, 375	\$813	\$4, 613
Green Valley	\$176, 209	\$1, 255	\$5, 090
Hardin Park	\$188, 100	\$2, 574	\$12, 407
Mabel	\$88, 561	\$631	\$3, 022
Valle Crucis	\$66, 975	\$917	\$5, 090
Total Allotted	\$643, 085	\$6, 649	\$33, 244
Unallocated	(\$45)	\$4	\$0

*Please note subs are factored in as part of the total allotment and not in addition to total.

2024-2025 School Allocations

School	Allotment	Parent Involvement**	Professional Development***
Bethel	\$67, 938	\$525	\$3, 060
Cove Creek	\$116, 714	\$902	\$4, 670
Green Valley	\$147, 199	\$1, 137	\$5, 152
Hardin Park	\$146, 000	\$2, 456	\$12, 560
Mabel	\$86, 299	\$666	\$3, 060
Valle Crucis	\$62, 000	\$1, 043	\$5, 152
Total Allotted	\$626, 350	\$6, 731	\$33, 656
Unallocated	\$270	\$2	\$2

Eligibility Report for 2025-2026

Data from ESSR May 2025

School	# Free	# Reduced	Free+Reduced	# K-8	# PreK	Total ADM	F/R %
Bethel	59	11	70	130	8	138	53.85%
BR	68	11	79	411	15	426	19.22%
CC	110	15	125	293	16	309	42.66%
GV	170	23	193	303	14	317	63.70%
HP	350	46	396	917	18	935	43.18%
Mabel	84	13	97	144	8	152	67.36%
PKW	208	26	234	636	18	654	36.79%
VC	129	12	141	347	16	363	40.63%
WHS	408	45	453	0	0	1, 333	33.98%
WIA	112	17	129	0	0	294	43.88%
District	1, 698	219	1, 917	3, 181	113	4, 921	39.87%

F/R % is based on Free + Reduced/ # K-8 (Total ADM at WHS and WIA)



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

To: Dr. Leslie Alexander, Superintendent
Watauga County Board of Education Members

From: Dr. Chris Blanton, Assistant Superintendent

Date: July 14, 2025

Re: Cost for WCS Students for N.C. Driving School, Inc.

The Board of Education has historically paid the complete cost for WCS students participating in the N.C. Driving School, Inc., by using state-allocated funds. In the 2024-25 school year, the costs were:

- \$50.00 per student for classroom instruction
- \$225.00 per student for behind-the-wheel instruction

\$275.00 total cost

For the 2025-26 school year, the costs will be:

- \$60.00 per student for classroom instruction
- \$240.00 per student for behind-the-wheel instruction

\$300.00 total cost

This request is for approval to require participating students in the 2025-26 school year to pay \$25.00 to cover the increased cost difference. This amount is lower than most districts charge students for driver's education.

Cost Increases for Drivers Education Vehicles Since 2020

Vehicle and Maintenance Costs

- Vehicle and maintenance costs have increased by 25-30%
- Car payments: from \$300 to \$700
- Tires (per set): from \$425-\$600 to \$800
- Windshield replacement: from \$180 to \$450
- Bent rims: from \$50 to \$200
- Wiper blades: from \$20 to \$35 each
- Oil changes: from \$30 to \$80
- Alignments: from \$65 to \$100
- Brake pads: from \$400 to \$600
- CV axles (both front): from \$400 to \$682
- Car insurance per vehicle: from \$85 to \$120
- Property taxes on vehicles will increase by 30% instead of devaluing by 25%

Office and Operating Expenses

- Copier Lease: from \$300 to \$682
- Fuel costs (fleet card): from \$300 to \$1500 per month
- Office expenses have increased as well: paper, postage. Office wages

Labor and Training Costs

- Behind-the-wheel phase wage of Driver's Ed: up 30%
- Classroom wage: up 30%
- Cost to create a Driver Education Instructor has increased
- Advertising costs per instructor: \$500 to \$1000
- Hotel cost for two-week class: \$1500
- Reimbursement for meals and fuel: \$250
- Stipend for each new employee: \$500
- Total cost of a new employee: around \$3000

DMV Changes

- The DMV has cut 45 in-person seats from their calendar of classes
- You can now only create a Driver's Ed Instructor during the months of June, July, and August

Watauga County Schools

Curriculum & Instruction Update

July 14, 2025
Board of Education Meeting



Summer Student Opportunities

Summer Extended Learning program

- Intensive intervention and reteaching for non proficient students K-8
 - Mabel & Green Valley
- HB 47 (Hurricane Relief) mandated 4-8 grades and provides funding reading and math focused
- Read to Achieve mandates and funds grades 2-3 reading only
- Belk Grant funds grades K-1 reading and math focus



Summer Student Opportunities

Green Valley

- 10 K-8 teachers
- 6 Teaching assistants
- 2 Enrichment teachers
- 100 K-8 Students

Mabel

- 7 K-8 teachers
- 4 Teaching Assistants
- 1 Enrichment teacher
- 68 K-8 Students



Summer Extending Learning Program

- 72 direct contact hours
- WCS After school summer camp (GV) and WCP&Rec (M) continue camp services until 5:30 daily
- Breakfast and lunch served
- 3 WCS School Administration interns working as Assistant Principals



K-12 Facilitated Assessment of MTSS (FAM-S)

Purpose

- Identify distinctive features/needs of school-level implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- Assist school and district-level personnel with the identification and prioritization of implementation steps
- Integrated tool which assesses the breadth and depth of academic, behavior, and social and emotional supports



K-12 Facilitated Assessment of MTSS (FAM-S)

- All 10 schools participated
- District Curriculum team facilitated the reviews (2+ hrs/school)
- Results reviewed by all School Improvement Teams July 22



2025 Student achievement summary

K-3 Literacy

Generally the percent of students who are at benchmark proficiency in K-2 was negatively impacted according to the mClass assessment.

District	21-22 EOY	22-23 EOY	23-24 EOY	24-25 EOY
K	66	70	72	69
1	64	70	74	65
2	65	64	65	71
3	64	63	67	67



2025 District 3-8 EOG student achievement summary

Reading

- Slight decreases in Grades 3,7
- Increases in Grades 4,5,6 and 8

Math

- Decreases in Grade 3,4 and 5
- 6th, 7th grade math increases were encouraging in light of hurricane.
- Significant increase (10%) in Math 8th grade particularly encouraging based upon focus last two years.



2025 EOG Second administration

- BOE approved and modified this year to allow during the school year 2nd administration
- 304 students participated (NP)
- 95 student scores became proficient
- This increased district proficiency in combined 3-8 reading and math +3.2%
- Current preliminary proficiency 65.9% overall Reading and Math Grades 3-8 compared to 65.2% in 2024



2025 WHS EOC student achievement summary

WHS

- Math III showed a significant increase in proficiency compared to last year (+10%)
- Math I showed a slight decrease in proficiency compared to last year
- English II showed an increase in proficiency compared to last year
- Preliminary Cohort Graduation Rate 92.9% highest ever. Possible increases due to summer graduation.



2025 CTE student achievement summary

WHS

- ACT workkeys also showed an increase in the percentage of students who are workplace ready

Watauga High School 2024-25		Watauga Innovation Academy 2024-25	
National Career Readiness Certificate	Percentage of Students	National Career Readiness Certificate	Percentage of Students
Brass	25	Brass	6
Gold	30	Gold	9
Platinum	13	Platinum	3
Silver	42	Silver	20
Grand Total	110	Grand Total	38

127+44 tested = 171
Out of 171 students 154 received an NCRS
90% of students tested received an NCRS



2025 Student achievement summary

EOG/EOC Overall

Glows

Staff focused on priority standards and targeted their instruction and intervention to maximize the time they had in a hurricane shortened year. This laser focus showed that most of our student groups grew and actually increased in proficiency from last year.

Grows

Our youngest students (K-3) literacy skills and growth will continue to need additional support next year to show this same improvement.



2025-2026 implications for CI team	
K-8	
• Continued Principal and instructional focus on K-3 literacy • Intensify core instruction • High impact tutoring in K-3 literacy to begin Fall '25 at three of our K-8's through 2nd Belk grant • Student support systems being reinforced and supported through FAM-S/School improvement process and district support	
WHS	
• Increased focus on NC Check-in data analysis by Math I PLT's to impact instruction/student outcomes • Focus on strengthening staff knowledge of Literacy instruction across all content areas emphasizing ML strategies	



Curriculum & Instruction Update	
Thank you for your support! Questions	



A. STANDING COMMITTEES

The Watauga Board of Education (the “board”) will organize standing committees for the purpose of conducting thorough deliberations and investigations of issues and informing and recommending action to the board as appropriate. The committees will consist of two types; those required by board policy, state or federal law and those deemed necessary for operational or advisory purposes by the Board.

The Board is required by policy, state or federal law to have the following committee(s):

- School Health Advisory Committee as required by State Board of Education’s Healthy Active Children Policy, SHLT-000. In addition, this committee shall function as the School Health Advisor Council as established in Board Policy 6140.

The Board has traditionally established the following committees as needed for operational or advisory purposes; (committees may be dissolved and new committees added as the Board deems necessary):

- Calendar
- Elementary Curriculum
- Facilities
- Finance
- High School Curriculum
- Media and Technology
- Safe Schools
- Teacher of the Year
- Watauga Education Foundation

~~Standing committees of the board are: Calendar Committee, Elementary Curriculum, Finance, High School Curriculum, Personnel Advisory, Media and Technology Advisory Committee and Student Services.~~

~~The board may form standing committees as it deems necessary on an annual basis as required by board policy, state or federal law. Those established by the board for operational or advisory purposes may include: Calendar, Elementary Curriculum, Facilities, Finance, High School Curriculum, Media and Technology Advisory, Safe Schools, School Health Advisory, Teacher of the Year and Watauga Education Foundation.~~

~~A non-voting~~ The board representative on each standing committee will be named by the chairperson of the board on an annual basis at the December or January meeting. Members of standing committees and a chairperson shall be appointed~~approved~~ by the ~~superintendent~~board annually. The number of members of each committee and

constituency of each committee shall be determined by the operational procedure of the committee. The assignment of individual board members to these committees will be published each year.

Standing committees shall have a procedure of operation approved by the ~~board~~ superintendent. The committee chairperson will preside at all committee meetings and be responsible for reporting to the board on the activities of the committee. The committee chairperson will call meetings and establish an agenda for each committee meeting that includes any item suggested by the superintendent, committee member or board member. An adequate record of committee meetings shall be provided to the board.

The board chairperson and the superintendent will be an ex-officio member of each committee. The standing committee chairs are responsible for submitting agenda items for regular meetings to the superintendent. The superintendent or designee shall assist the chairperson of each standing committee in the preparation of the agenda and in ensuring that information is available to the committee during its deliberation of issues.

A standing committee may only make recommendations to the board and has no authority to act on behalf of the board unless specifically authorized by law, board policy or the board. Committee reports shall be submitted to the board. They shall be in writing and shall be included in the materials for board action.

B. AD HOC COMMITTEES

As time and situations demand, ad hoc committees may be appointed by the chairperson with the approval of the board for special assignments. Ad hoc committees have no final authority and are subordinate and advisory to the board. They shall terminate upon completion of the assignment, or at any time by a vote of the board. The superintendent ~~board chairperson~~ or designee shall serve as an ex-officio member of ad hoc committees.

C. OPEN MEETINGS LAW

All committees of the board are public bodies within the meaning of the North Carolina Open Meetings Law and are subject to all requirements of that law pertaining to notice, closed sessions, minutes, voting and penalties (see policy 1420, Compliance with the Open Meetings Law). The chairperson of each committee shall notify the superintendent or designee of the time and date of all committee meetings within sufficient time to notify the public of the meetings as required by law.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36; 143-318.9 *et seq.*

Cross References: Compliance with the Open Meetings Law (policy 1420), Closed Sessions (policy 1421)

Adopted: October 12, 2015

Replaces: Policy 1.06, Board Committees

Revised: May 9, 2016; May 6, 2019;

The board provides its students and staff access to a variety of technological resources. These resources provide opportunities to enhance learning, appeal to different learning styles, improve communication within the school community and with the larger global community, and achieve the educational goals established by the board. Through the school system's technological resources, users can observe events as they occur around the world, interact with others on a variety of subjects, and acquire access to current and in-depth information.

The board intends that students and employees benefit from ~~technology~~these resources while remaining within the bounds of safe, legal, and responsible use. Accordingly, the board establishes this policy to govern student and employee use of any technological resources owned, leased, maintained, or otherwise controlled by the school system. This policy applies regardless of whether such use occurs on or off school system property, and it applies to all school system technological resources, including but not limited to computer networks and connections, the resources, tools, and learning environments made available by or on the networks, and all devices that connect to those networks.

A. EXPECTATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The use of school system technological resources, including access to the Internet, is expected to be exercised in an appropriate and responsible manner. Individual users of the school system's technological resources are responsible for their behavior and communications when using those resources. Responsible use of school system technological resources is use that is ethical, respectful, academically honest, and supportive of student learning. Each user has the responsibility to respect others in the school community and on the Internet. Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and other regulations and school rules, apply to use of school technological resources, including access to the Internet.

In addition, anyone who uses school system computers or electronic devices, accesses the school's electronic storage or network, or connects to the Internet using school system-provided access must comply with the additional rules for responsible use listed in Section B below. These rules are intended to clarify expectations for conduct but should not be construed as all-inclusive.

All students must be trained about appropriate online behavior as provided in policy 3226/4205, Internet Safety.

B. RULES FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1. School system technological resources are provided for school-related purposes

only. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to responsible, efficient, and legal activities that support the educational objectives of the Watauga County Schools. Use of school system technological resources for any non-educational purposes is prohibited, including but not limited to use for commercial gain or profit, for charitable purposes other than school fund-raising, or for amusement or entertainment. Student personal use of school system technological resources for amusement or entertainment is also prohibited unless approved for special situations by the teacher or school administrator. Because some incidental and occasional personal use by employees is inevitable, the board permits infrequent and brief personal use by employees so long as it does not interfere with school system business and is not otherwise prohibited by board policy or procedure.

School system Wi-Fi hotspots and/or services may be used off school system property only by students and school staff members who need them. Such use must be primarily for activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students.

2. Unless authorized by law to do so, users may not make copies of software purchased by the school system. Software purchased by the school system may be copied for personal use only when expressly permitted by the terms of a specific software licensing agreement.
3. Users must comply with all applicable laws, board policies, administrative regulations, and school standards and rules, including those relating to copyrights and trademarks, confidential information, and public records. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incidents of plagiarism, as stated in the Code of Student Conduct.
4. Users must follow any software, application, or subscription services terms and conditions of use.
5. No user of technological resources, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications, may engage in creating, intentionally viewing, accessing, downloading, storing, printing, or transmitting images, graphics (including still or moving pictures), sound files, text files, documents, messages, or other material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, pornographic, harassing, abusive, or considered to be harmful to minors.
6. Users must not circumvent fire walls. The use of anonymous proxies to circumvent content filtering is prohibited.
7. Users may not install or use any Internet-based file sharing program designed to facilitate sharing of copyrighted material.

8. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).
9. Users must respect the privacy of others.
 - a. Students must not reveal any personally identifying, private, or confidential information about themselves or fellow students when using email, chat rooms, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication. Such information includes, for example, a person's home address or telephone number, credit or checking account information, or social security number. For further information regarding what constitutes personal identifying information, see policy 4705/7825, Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information.
 - b. School employees may disclose student directory information (such as name, photograph, or digital image) on school system websites and web pages unless parents/guardians/eligible students have opted out of the release of directory information pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and in accordance with Policy 4700, Student Records.
 - c. Users may not forward or post personal communications without the author's prior consent.
 - d. Students may not use school system technological resources to capture audio, video, or still pictures of other students and/or employees in which such individuals can be personally identified, nor share such media in any way, without consent of the students and/or employees and the principal or designee. An exception will be made for settings where students and staff cannot be identified beyond the context of a sports performance or other public event or when otherwise approved by the principal.
10. Users may not intentionally or negligently damage computers, computer systems, electronic devices, software, computer networks, or data of any user connected to school system technological resources. Users may not knowingly or negligently transmit computer viruses or self-replicating messages or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance, including by streaming audio or video for non-instructional purposes. Users may not disable antivirus programs installed on school system-owned or issued devices.
11. Users may not create or introduce games, network communications programs, or any foreign program, executable program, or software onto any school system computer, electronic device, or network without the express written permission of the technology director or designee. All school purchases of games and other software addressed by this provision, regardless of the funding source, must be approved in advance by the technology director or designee.

12. Users are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized or unlawful activities, such as “hacking” or using the computer network to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems, or accounts.
13. Users are prohibited from using another individual’s ID or password for any technological resource or account without permission from the individual and from the teacher or other school official. Sharing of an individual’s ID or password is strongly discouraged.
14. Users may not read, alter, change, block, execute, or delete files or communications belonging to another user without the owner’s express prior permission.
15. Employees shall not use passwords or user IDs for any data system (e.g., the state student information and instructional improvement system applications, time-keeping software, etc.) for an unauthorized or improper purpose.
16. If a user identifies or encounters an instance of unauthorized access or another security concern, he or she must immediately notify a teacher, school system administrator, or the technology director or designee. Users must not share the problem with other users. Any user identified as a security risk will be denied access.
17. It is the user’s responsibility to back up data and other important files.
18. Employees shall make reasonable efforts to supervise students’ use of the Internet during instructional time.
19. Views may be expressed on the Internet or other technological resources as representing the view of the school system or part of the school system only with prior approval by the superintendent or designee.
20. Use of social media during instructional hours, and at any time using school technology, is prohibited except when approved and monitored by a teacher or other school official. All school personnel will comply with policy 7335 Employee Use of Social Media.
21. Users who are issued school system-owned and -maintained devices for home use (such as laptops, Chromebooks, etc.) must adhere to any other reasonable rules or guidelines issued by the superintendent or technology director for the use of such devices.

Exceptions to these rules may be made for employees whose activities are necessary to carry out their job responsibilities and are authorized by law.

C. RESTRICTED MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET

The Internet and electronic communications offer fluid environments in which students may access or be exposed to materials and information from diverse and rapidly changing sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The board recognizes that it is impossible to predict with certainty what information on the Internet students may access or obtain. Nevertheless school system personnel shall take reasonable precautions to prevent students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic, or otherwise harmful to minors, including violence, nudity, or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose. The superintendent shall ensure that technology protection measures are used as provided in policy 3226/4205, Internet Safety, and are disabled or minimized only when permitted by law and board policy. The board is not responsible for the content accessed by using a cellular network to connect a personal device to the Internet.

D. PRIVACY

Students, employees, visitors, and other users have no expectation or right of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, receive, or display when using the school system's network, devices, Internet access, email system, or other technological resources owned or issued by the school system, whether the resources are used at school or elsewhere, and even if the use is for personal purposes. Users should not assume that files or communications created, transmitted, or displayed using school system technological resources or stored on servers the storage mediums of individual devices, or on school managed cloud services will be private. Under certain circumstances, school officials may be required to disclose such electronic information to law enforcement or other third parties, for example, as a response to a document production request in a lawsuit against the board, in response to a public records request, or as evidence of illegal activity in a criminal investigation.

School system personnel shall monitor online activities of individuals who access the Internet via a school-owned device. The school system may, without notice, (1) monitor, track, and/or log network access, communications, and use; (2) monitor and allocate files server space; and (3) access, review, copy, store, delete, or disclose the content of all user files, regardless of medium, the content of electronic mailboxes issued by the school system, and system outputs, such as printouts, at any time for any lawful purpose. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to, maintaining system integrity, security, or functionality, ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations, protecting the school system from liability, and complying with public records requests.

By using the school system's network, Internet access, electronic devices, email system, devices, or other technological resources, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized school system personnel as described in this policy.

E. USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY ON SCHOOL SYSTEM PROPERTY

Users may not use private WiFi hotspots or other personal technology on campus to access the Internet outside the school system's wireless network. Personal technology devices (including, but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) may be used on campus only in accordance with written guidelines approved by the superintendent or designee. Students shall not use such devices to take and/or send pictures of other students, faculty or staff by email or other electronic means unless instructed to do so by a Watauga County Schools employee. Personal technology devices may be used in classrooms only for instructional purposes under the direction of Watauga County Schools faculty. If these devices are used for cheating, the responsible student(s) will be dealt with in accordance to Board policies on student behavior (4300 series). Students' personal devices are also governed by policy 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices. Use of personal technology devices is also subject to any rules established by the superintendent under a bring your own device plan authorized by Section C of policy 3220, Technology in the Educational Program, and for employees, policy 3228/7323, Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business. The school system assumes no responsibility for personal technology devices brought to school.

F. PERSONAL WEBSITES

The superintendent may use any means available to request the removal of personal websites that substantially disrupt the school environment or that utilize school system or individual school names, logos, or trademarks without permission.

1. Students

Though school personnel generally do not monitor students' Internet activity conducted on non-school system devices during non-school hours, when the student's online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be disciplined in accordance with board policy to the extent consistent with law (see the student behavior policies in the 4300 series and policy 4021/7230).

2. Employees

Employees' personal websites are subject to policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media. Employees may not use their personal websites to communicate with students, as prohibited by policy 7335 and policy 4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations.

3. Volunteers

Volunteers are to maintain appropriate relationships with students at all times. Volunteers are encouraged to block students from viewing personal information on volunteer personal websites or online networking profiles in order to prevent the possibility that students could view materials that are not age-appropriate. An individual volunteer's relationship with the school system may be terminated if the volunteer engages in inappropriate online interaction with students.

G. USE AGREEMENTS

All students, parents, and employees will be informed annually of the information in this policy and in any applicable generative artificial intelligence (AI) guidelines developed in accordance with policy 3220, Technology in the Educational Program. Prior to using school system technological resources, students and employees must agree to comply with the requirements of this policy and the generative AI guidelines and consent to the school system's use of monitoring systems to monitor and detect inappropriate use of technological resources. In addition, the student's parent must consent to the student accessing the Internet and to the school system monitoring the student's Internet activity and electronic mailbox issued by the school system and must sign a copy of the generative AI guidelines as part of the district's Responsible Use Agreement.

H. CONSEQUENCES

Based on the nature and severity of the offense and the circumstances surrounding the incident, violations of this policy will result in appropriate remedial actions or discipline up to and including long-term suspension for students and dismissal for employees and may result in revocation of user privileges. Willful misuse may also result in criminal prosecution under applicable state and federal law.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5); 47 C.F.R. 54.516; Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2522; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 17 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*; 20 U.S.C. 7131; G.S. 115C-325(e) (applicable to career status teachers), -325.4 (applicable to non-career status teachers); 143-805

Cross References: Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Technology in the Educational Program (policy 3220), Internet Safety (policy 3226/4205), Web Page Development (policy 3227/7322), Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business (policy 3228/7323), Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), Student Behavior Policies (all policies in the 4300 series), Student Records (policy 4700), Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information (policy 4705/7825), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies (policy 6520), Network Security (policy 6524), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use of Social Media (policy 7335)

Other Resources: North Carolina Generative AI Implementation Recommendations and Considerations for PK-13 Public Schools, available at https://go.ncdpi.gov/AI_Guidelines

Adopted: June 8, 2015

Revised: November 14, 2016; January 13, 2020; January 10, 2022; July 11, 2024; April 15, 2025;
DATE

Replaces: Policy 4.02.50, Responsible Use for Access to Networked Information Resources

An evaluation system of students' academic performance is necessary to help ensure that all students are succeeding within the framework of the educational goals and objectives of the board. The Watauga County Board of Education (the "board") believes that the formal issuance of student evaluations on a regular basis promotes continuous assessment of a student's performance; informs the student, his or her parents or guardians, and the school staff about the student's performance and progress; and provides a system of notice that allows intervention strategies to be implemented if necessary to improve the student's performance. The board encourages teachers and principals to pursue innovative methods of evaluating progress.

The superintendent or designee shall establish an evaluation system for assessing an individual student's academic achievement and progress relative to benchmarks set for students at that instructional level. The evaluation system should provide for regular communication with parents so that they may be informed and involved in their child's education.

Teachers shall evaluate student performance and keep accurate records in order to substantiate a grade or assessment given in a course. In evaluating student performance, each teacher shall make use of all available information, including but not limited to:

1. Formative, Benchmark, and Summative Classroom assessments and grades
2. North Carolina Ready End-of-Course tests (EOC)
3. North Carolina Ready End-of-Grade tests (EOG)
4. Writing Assessments
5. VoCATS
6. Other standardized tests
7. Teacher observation of student performance
8. Assistance of resource personnel

All high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools may ~~will~~ use the following grading scale.

<u>A</u>	<u>90-100</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>80-89</u>
<u>C</u>	<u>70-79</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>60-69</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>< 59</u>

The following letter grades also may be used as applicable.

<u>FF</u>	<u>FF may be used for a student who does not have a passing grade based on content and also has been absent for at least 10% of the classes for the course.</u>
<u>INC</u>	<u>If a student has extenuating circumstances, such as a medical condition, the superintendent, principal, or other designee may approve the temporary use of incomplete (INC).</u>
<u>P</u>	<u>Pass (P) may be used for elective courses but may not be awarded for non-elective graduation requirements.</u>
<u>WP</u>	<u>Withdraw (WP) may be used for courses from which a student withdraws during the current semester and receives no course credit.</u>
<u>CDM</u>	<u>Credit by demonstrated mastery (CDM) will be used to reflect earning credit for a course through the CDM process.</u>

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47; State Board of Education Policy GRAD-009

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 4002), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Grading and Reporting (regulation 3400-R), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), Parental Involvement (policy 4002)

Adopted: July 11, 2016

Revised: March 15, 2018 (Legal references only); DATE

A. PURPOSE

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) maintains high academic expectations for all students and believes that all students are capable of academic growth. Students should be afforded as many opportunities as possible to demonstrate academic achievement prior to progressing to the next level of study. Students will be promoted to the next level of study as described in this policy.

B. STUDENT PROMOTION STANDARDS

The superintendent shall develop (1) proposed promotion standards and (2) a process to be used in determining a student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study and shall submit the standards and process to the board for approval. The standards will be based, in part, upon proficiency in reading. The standards and process must provide multiple criteria for assessing a student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study, such as standardized test scores, formative and diagnostic assessments, grades, a portfolio or anthology of the student’s work, research-based standards for assessing developmental growth and, when appropriate, any other factors deemed relevant. The standards and process will incorporate all state law and State Board of Education policy requirements, including those for the assessment and promotion of third grade students as described in G.S. 115C-83.6 *et seq.* and State Board of Education Policies KNEC-002 and -003.

The promotion standards also will require that students not be promoted from eighth grade until a career development plan is completed in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 115C-158.10 and State Board of Education rules and not be promoted from tenth grade until the career development plan is revised. Any high school student who does not already have a career development plan must complete the plan within 90 days of enrollment in school. Career development plans must be easily accessible to students and parents.

Principals shall ensure that the promotion standards are used by teachers and school administrators in assessing each student’s readiness to progress to the next level of study. Principals have the authority to promote or retain students based upon the standards approved by the board and any applicable standards set by the State Board of Education.

To reduce the number of students who do not meet promotion standards, the board directs school administrators and teachers to address the needs of students who are not making adequate academic progress as required by policy 3405, Students at Risk of Academic Failure.

C. DIPLOMA STANDARDS

To receive a North Carolina high school diploma, a student must complete the requirements set forth in policy 3460, Graduation Requirements.

D. APPEALS OF PROMOTION DECISIONS**1. Appeal to the Superintendent**

Within five workdays of receiving the principal's written decision to promote or retain a student, the student's parents may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may overturn the principal's decision only upon a finding that the principal's decision was arbitrary and capricious (i.e., without a rational basis) or was otherwise an abuse of discretion.

The superintendent must render a decision within 10 workdays of receiving the appeal. The superintendent may support the principal's decision, remand it back to the principal for consideration of additional issues, or reverse the decision.

The superintendent's findings must be in writing and must be provided to the parents.

2. Appeal to the Board of Education

The superintendent's decision to promote or retain a student may be appealed to the board in accordance with the procedures set forth in subsection E.5 of policy 4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure.

E. LITERACY INTERVENTIONS**1. Reading Camps**

The board will provide reading camp opportunities as required by law at no fee for students who are entitled to this intervention under state law. The superintendent or designee shall encourage parents of eligible students to enroll their students in a reading camp. To the extent resources permit, the board will offer fee-based reading camp opportunities for students in eligible grades who are not entitled to attend at no cost. Annually, the board will establish criteria for priority enrollment in its fee-based reading camps and will set the attendance fee at an amount not to exceed the statutory limit. The superintendent or designee shall notify interested parents of the application procedure for the fee-based reading camps.

2. Individual Reading Plans

An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) will be developed in accordance with state law for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading development based on the results of either (1) the first diagnostic or formative assessment of the school year or (2) the first diagnostic or formative assessment of the second semester of the school year. The student's teacher shall notify the parent or guardian that the student has demonstrated difficulty with

reading development and that an IRP has been developed for the student. The notice provided must include all other information required under G.S. 115C-83.6B(b) and should be in the parents' native language when appropriate foreign language resources are readily available.

3. Digital Children's Reading Initiative

The school system will provide access through the school system website to available resources from the Department of Public Instruction's Digital Children's Reading Initiative as required by law. Printable activities from those resources will be provided in hard copy to students who do not have digital access at home.

4. Approval of Literacy Intervention Plan

By the established deadline each year, the superintendent or designee shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction for approval a plan for the literacy interventions the school system will offer in the following school year, as required by G.S. 115C-83.6A.

F. PROMOTION STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

To the extent possible, students with disabilities must be held to the same promotion standards as all other students. However, for students who take alternative assessments in lieu of the end-of-grade (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) tests, promotion decisions must be based on criteria recommended by the IEP team. The IEP Team shall make a recommendation to the principal for special placement. The principal shall determine the student's placement. The superintendent/designee shall review the recommendation before special placement is made. The school principal has the ultimate responsibility for placement and grading of students in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

All intervention strategies and other opportunities, benefits, and resources that are made available to students without disabilities must be made available to those students with disabilities who are subject to the student promotion standards. Such opportunities must be in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

G. CREDIT BY DEMONSTRATED MASTERY

The superintendent shall provide opportunities for students in grades 9 through 12 to earn course credit by demonstrating mastery of course material without first completing the regular period of classroom instruction in the course. Students in grades 6 through 8 may earn credit by demonstrated mastery for high school courses offered in middle school. To earn credit by demonstrated mastery, students must demonstrate a deep understanding of the content standards and application of knowledge through a multi-phase assessment, in accordance with standards established by the State Board of Education and any additional standards established by the superintendent.

H. CREDIT RECOVERY

Students who fail a high school course may retake parts of the course through credit recovery to earn credit for the course. Credit recovery delivers a subset of the blueprint of the original course in order to specifically address deficiencies in a student's mastery of the course and target specific components of a course necessary for completion. A pre-assessment of the student's understanding of the course material will be administered at the beginning of the course and the credit recovery will be tailored to meet the needs of the individual student. The length of a credit recovery course is dictated by the skills and knowledge the student needs to recover and not a fixed length of seat time.

~~Any EOC exam associated with~~ If the credit recovery course has an associated EOC exam and the student is going to retake it, the exam will be administered no later than 30 days upon completion of the credit recovery course. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, students shall earn a numeric grade for credit recovery, which will be factored into the pre-existing incomplete or fail course grade on the student's transcript to a degree proportional to the percentage of the course completed through credit recovery, resulting in a new passing numeric grade for the course. The credit recovery will be graded as pass or fail and will not impact the student's grade point average. The original grade for the course will remain on the student's transcript.

The superintendent shall develop procedures addressing the implementation of credit recovery opportunities across the school system.

I. REPEATING A COURSE FOR CREDIT

1. Repeating a Previously Failed Course

As provided in State Board of Education policy CCRE-001, high school students who fail a course for credit may repeat that course. To take advantage of this option, the student must repeat the entire course. When a student initially fails a high school course or college level course taken for high school credit and successfully repeats the course for credit, the new course grade will replace the original failing grade for the course on the student's transcript and in calculations of the student's GPA, class rank, and honor roll eligibility. The superintendent may develop procedures for students to indicate their intent to repeat a course for credit under this paragraph and may establish any other rules as necessary and consistent with State Board policy.

2. Repeating a Course for which Credit was Earned (Grade Replacement)

The board recognizes that high school students may need to repeat a course for which they have earned credit in order to increase their understanding of the course content, to improve skill mastery, or to meet postsecondary goals. Students may repeat a course for which they have previously earned credit, subject to the following preconditions and any other reasonable rules established by the

superintendent:

- a. the student must have earned a letter grade of C or lower in the course on the first attempt;
- b. the student must make a written request to repeat the course;
- c. the principal or designee must approve the request;
- d. there must be space available after seats have been assigned to students who are taking the course for the first time or repeating a previously failed course;
- e. the course to be repeated must be a duplicate of the original class and must be taken during the regular school day;
- f. upon completion of the repeated course, the new course grade will replace the student's original grade on the student's transcript and in calculations of the student's GPA, class rank, and honor roll eligibility, regardless of whether the later grade is higher or lower than the student's original mark;
- g. credit towards graduation for the same course will be given only once;
- h. a course may be repeated only one time; and
- i. students may repeat a maximum of four previously passed courses during their high school careers.

The superintendent shall require notice to students and parents of these preconditions and of any other relevant information deemed advisable by the superintendent.

J. CREDIT FROM STUDYING ABROAD

The board encourages students to participate in foreign exchange student programs to enhance their high school academic experience and heighten their awareness and knowledge of global cultures. With careful planning, students may receive credit for courses taken abroad that have substantial equivalency to school system high school courses in content and in hours.

Students who wish to receive high school credit for courses taken during the school year in a foreign country should file a request for study abroad credit with the principal or designee by July 1 of the year preceding the proposed study. To receive credit, the student must submit a copy of the syllabus of the course with the hours of study and grading system described. The student should promptly notify the principal or designee of any course changes.

K. ACCELERATION

Some students may need less time to learn the curriculum. Teachers are encouraged to challenge these students by expanding the curriculum, providing opportunities to explore subjects in greater detail or providing different types of educational experiences. To challenge a student sufficiently, the principal may reassign the student to a different class or level of study and/or may identify concurrent enrollment or other curriculum expansion options (see policy 3101, Dual Enrollment).

The principal, after consulting with the professional staff and the student's parents, may determine that skipping a grade level is appropriate.

Students also have the option of using an accelerated pathway to complete high school in three years rather than four (see policy 3460, Graduation Requirements).

L. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**1. Superintendent's Report to the Board**

At least on an annual basis, the superintendent shall provide the board with the following information for each school:

- a. aggregate student performance scores on state-mandated tests and any other standardized tests used by a school or the school system;
- b. the number and percentage of students retained and/or not meeting the standards for their grade level;
- c. the number and percentage of third grade students exempt from mandatory third grade retention by category of exemption as listed in state law; and
- d. remedial or additional educational opportunities provided by the school system and the success of these efforts in helping students meet promotion standards.

2. Report to the North Carolina State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction

Pursuant to statutory requirements and standards established by the Department of Public Instruction, all required information regarding student performance will be provided annually to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

3. Publication on the School System Website

Information about the reading performance of first, second, and third grade students

will be posted on the school system website in accordance with state law.

M. RESOURCES

Consistent with the objective of improving student performance, the board will provide schools with maximum flexibility in the allocation of state funds. School personnel are expected to budget financial resources in a manner that will meet the standards established in this policy. The board will consider requests to transfer funds from other funding allotment categories to intervention strategies as part of the school improvement plan submitted by school officials. All funds will be used in a fiscally sound manner in accordance with policy 8300, Fiscal Management Standards.

N. NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

The superintendent or designee shall provide information regarding promotion standards to all students and parents. In addition, if a kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade student (1) is demonstrating difficulty with reading development or (2) is not reading at grade level, the student's teacher shall provide the student's parents timely written notice advising that if the student is not demonstrating reading proficiency by the end of third grade, the student will be retained, unless exempt from mandatory retention for good cause. Parents are encouraged to help their children meet the promotion standards and will have opportunities to discuss the promotion standards and procedures with teachers and the principal. Information provided to parents should be in the parents' native language when appropriate foreign language resources are readily available.

The teacher of a student who does not meet promotion standards must notify the student's parents that the student has failed to meet the standards for progression to the next level of study and must provide the parents with information concerning retesting, intervention, review, and appeal opportunities. When a student is to be retained, the principal shall provide the student's parents written notice of the retention and, if the student will be retained in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.7(a) for failure to demonstrate reading proficiency, (1) written notice of the reason the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption as provided in G.S. 115C-83.7(b) and (2) a description of proposed literacy interventions that will be provided to the student to remediate areas where the student has not demonstrated reading proficiency. Teachers shall provide parents of students retained under G.S. 115C-83.7(a) at least monthly written reports on student progress toward reading proficiency. The evaluation of a student's progress will be based upon the student's classroom work, observations, tests, assessments, and other relevant information.

O. CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES

As required by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (G.S. 115C-407.5), G.S. 115C-407.12, and policy 4155, Assignment to Classes, school administrators have the authority to exercise flexibility in waiving course or program prerequisites or other preconditions for the placement of children of military families, as defined in policy 4050, Children of Military Families, in courses or programs offered by the school system.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -45(c), -47, -81.5, -83.2, -83.3, -83.6, -83.6A, -83.6B, -83.7, -83.7A, -83.8, -83.9, -83.10, -83.11, -83.31, -105.21, -158.10, -174.11, -288(a), -407.5, -407.12; S.L. 2021-8; 16 N.C.A.C. 6D .0508, .0510; State Board of Education Policies CCRE-001, GRAD-001, GRAD-006, KNEC-002, KNEC-003

Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 4010), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Dual Enrollment (policy 3101), Students at Risk of Academic Failure (policy 3405), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Graduation Requirements (policy 3460), Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Assignment to Classes (policy 4155), Fiscal Management Standards (policy 8300)

Other Resources: *Guidelines for Testing Students Identified as English Learners*, (N.C. Department of Public Instruction), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/testing-and-school-accountability/testing-policy-and-operations/testing-students-identified-english-learners>; Comprehensive Reading Plan for Achievement, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/early-learning-read-achieve/k-3-literacy>

Adopted: July 11, 2016

Revised: July 10, 2017; March 15, 2018 (Legal references only); February 11, 2019; August 12, 2020 (Legal references only); July 26, 2021; January 10, 2022; March 13, 2023; July 11, 2024; April 15, 2025; DATE

All schools will participate in federal National School Nutrition Programs and will receive commodities donated by the United States Department of Agriculture. All federal and state revenues will be accepted and applied to maximize the use of such funds for the purposes of providing nutritional meals to students at the lowest possible price. The superintendent or designee shall develop procedures as necessary to implement the operational standards established in this policy.

A. OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

The school nutrition services program will be operated in a manner consistent with Watauga County Board of Education (the "board") goals and board policy. The program also will be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal law, including requirements of the National School Lunch Program and all federal guidelines established by the School Nutrition Division of the United States Department of Agriculture. Specific legal requirements that must be met include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. School officials may not discriminate based on race, sex, ~~(including pregnancy, childbirth, sexual orientation, and gender identity)~~, color, national origin, disability, age, or eligibility status for free and reduced price meals. School officials are also prohibited from retaliating against an individual for prior civil rights activity.
2. The school nutrition services program will meet safety and sanitation requirements established in local, state, and federal rules and guidelines for school nutrition services programs.
3. The school nutrition services program will have a written food safety program that includes a hazard analysis critical control point plan for each school.
4. Menu preparation, purchasing, and related record keeping will be consistent with applicable state and federal rules and guidelines.
5. Banking, financial record keeping, budgeting, and accounting will be conducted in accordance with generally accepted practices and procedures, as dictated by the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act and in accordance with state and federal guidelines.
6. Commodity foods donated by the United States Department of Agriculture will be used and accounted for in accordance with federal regulations.
7. Preference will be given in purchasing contracts to high-calcium foods and beverages, as defined in G.S. 115C-264.1 and to foods grown or raised within North Carolina.

8. School Nutrition Program (SNP) funds will be used only for the purposes authorized by law. Indirect costs, as defined by law, will not be assessed to the SNP unless the program has an operating balance of at least two months.
9. The price for meals will be determined in accordance with federal law.
10. Non-program foods will be priced to generate sufficient revenues to cover the cost of those items. A non-program food is defined as a food or beverage, other than a reimbursable meal or snack, that is sold at the school and is purchased using funds from the school nutrition account.
11. All school nutrition services will be operated on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the SNP. School nutrition services are those that operate from 12:01 a.m. until 30 minutes after the end of the school day.
12. All income from the sale of food and beverages that is required by law or regulation to be retained by the SNP will be deposited to the SNP account and will be used only for the purposes of the school's non-profit lunch and breakfast programs. All other funds from food and beverage sales not otherwise required by law to be deposited to the SNP account will be deposited into the proper school account in accordance with guidelines developed by the superintendent or designee.
13. All competitive foods sold on school campuses will meet federal and state standards for nutrient content.
14. To the extent feasible consistent with legal, regulatory, and budgetary limits, the purchase of locally sourced foods and beverages is encouraged in the School Nutrition Program.
15. All employees whose job duties include procurement activities involving School Nutrition Program funds shall adhere to the conflict of interest rules and standards for ethical conduct established by the board in policies 6401/9100, Ethics and the Purchasing Function, and 8305, Federal Grant Administration. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in disciplinary action.

B. MEAL CHARGES

Students who are required to pay for meals are expected to provide payment in a timely manner. The board recognizes, however, that students may occasionally forget or lose their meal money. No adults will be permitted to charge meals or other items in the school cafeteria. No student will be permitted to charge supplemental or a la carte items, including milk.

No student will be deprived a meal nor served an alternate meal due to forgotten or lost money. At no time will a student meal be retrieved once the student has received the tray. The student shall be allowed to eat the meal and the student's account will be charged

accordingly.

If a student meal account has a negative balance, money offered by the student for purchase of supplemental or a la carte items cannot be used to pay against the negative balance without the student's permission.

The school nutrition director and principal shall work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort will be made to collect all funds due to the school nutrition program on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. This may include but is not limited to sending letters home with students, sending emails to parents, and sending automated calls to homes. If a parent regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the school nutrition program shall inform the principal, who shall determine the next course of action. This may include notifying the department of social services of suspected child neglect and/or taking legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges. The principal shall not impose any administrative penalties on a student for unpaid meal charges. Administrative penalties include withholding a student's records, prohibiting a student from participating in graduation, and denying a student a diploma.

Parents are expected to pay all meal charges in full by the last day of each school year. Negative balances on student meal accounts cannot be carried forward to the following school year. All negative balances will continue to be owed to the school office until paid in full. The superintendent shall ensure that federal school nutrition funds are not used to offset the cost of unpaid meals and that the SNP is reimbursed for bad debt resulting from uncollected student meal charges prior to the last day of the school year. The school's general fund, or other fund designated by the school principal, will be financially responsible for outstanding charges that have not been paid.

This policy and any applicable procedures regarding meal charges must be communicated to school administrators, school food service professional, parents, and students. Parents will receive a written copy of the meal charges policy and any applicable procedures at the start of each school year and at any time their child transfers into a new school during the school year.

Legal References: Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 *et seq.*; National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.*, 2 C.F.R. pt. 200; 7 C.F.R. pt. 210; 7 C.F.R. pt. 215; 7 C.F.R. pt. 220; United States Department of Agriculture Policy Memos SP 46-2016, 47-2016, and 23-2017, available at https://www.fns.usda.gov/resources?f%5B0%5D=program%3A39&f%5B1%5D=resource_type%3A160&keywords=&page=1; G.S. 115C-47(7), -47(22), -263, -264, -264.1, -426, -450, -522; 147 art. 6E, art. 6G; 16 N.C.A.C. 6H .0104

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Goals of School Nutrition Services (policy 6200), School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards (policy 6230), Goals of the Purchasing Function (policy 6400), Ethics and the Purchasing Function (policy 6401/9100), Federal Grant Administration (policy 8305)

Adopted: March 9, 2015

Replaces: Policy 5.07.90, Charging of School Meals

Revised: May 9, 2016; June 12, 2017; August 14, 2017 and April 9, 2018 (Legal references only); June 11, 2018; April 8, 2019; January 13, 2020; July 26, 2021 (Legal references only); June 30, 2022; December 12, 2022; January 16, 2024; DATE

INSURANCE FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Policy Code:

6330

No school bus, activity bus or other ~~school-owned vehicle~~ owned, leased, or rented by the school system will be operated without bodily injury and property damage protection provided through the provisions of the State Tort Claims Act or through locally purchased liability coverage. School buses will not be used for any purpose or in any circumstance not covered by the State Tort Claims Act unless liability coverage has been purchased to cover such purpose or circumstance. Only activity buses and other vehicles meeting federal safety standards may be used for approved school-related activities. The superintendent or designee and principals shall monitor compliance with this policy.

Legal References: 49 U.S.C. 30125, 30165; G.S. 115C-42, -47(25), -239, -242, -257, -258, -259; G.S. 143 art. 31; Memorandum to All Superintendents from Eddie M. Speas, Jr., Special Deputy Attorney General, January 14, 1988, available at <https://www.ncsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/AG-Memo-1988.pdf>

Cross References: Insurance (policy 8340)

Adopted: April 11, 2016

Revised: July 25, 2023; DATE

Watauga County Schools
2025-2026 Calendar Committee

Member Name	Representative School/ Area
Dr. Wayne M. Eberle II- Chair	Central Office
Dr. Chris Blanton- Co-Chair	Central Office
Eric Bolick	Maintenance Dept.
Dr. Adam Hege*	Board of Education
Pam West	Bethel
Cheyenne Ross*	Bethel
Allyson McFalls*	Blowing Rock
Tonya Hamby-Ward	Blowing Rock
Kylie Bolick	Cove Creek
Amy Warren	Cove Creek
Jennie Weschler	Green Valley
Brooke Moretz	Green Valley
Rebecca Pitts	Hardin Park
Kelly Carter*	Hardin Park
Abigail Bumgarner*	Mabel
Brian Lynch*	Mabel
Char Chiarolanzio	Parkway
Melissa Van Lenten	Parkway
Natasha Lyons	Valle Crucis
Jana Yount	Valle Crucis
Dr. Brantley Wallace	Parent Rep (CC)
Kim Shockey	Parent Rep (VC)
Rachel Willingham*	Watauga High School
James Priest	Watauga High School

*** Denotes members in year 1 of Calendar Committee service**