



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 ***March 9, 2026***

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| 4:30 p.m. | 1. CALL TO ORDER | Board Chair |
| 4:33 p.m. | 2. CLOSED SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of the Minutes for 2/9/2026 and 2/19/2026B. Reportable Offenses – N.C.G.S.115C-288(g)C. Student Records - N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(1)D. Personnel – N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6)E. Attorney-Client - N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) | Board Chair |
| 6:00 p.m. | 3. OPEN SESSION CALL TO ORDER/
WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE | Board Chair |
| 6:03 p.m. | 4. DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA | Board Chair |
| 6:05 p.m. | 5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT | Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| 6:10 p.m. | 6. STUDENTS' REPORT | Ms. Athena Elliott
Ms. Rosalyn Rabinowitz |
| 6:15 p.m. | 7. SPECIAL RECOGNITION <ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Coach Randy McDonough: NCTFCC Hall of Fame★ Recognition of State Wrestling Tournament Medalist★ Resolutions of Achievement<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Men's Swim Team○ Women's Swim Team○ Women's Indoor Track & Field Team | Dr. Leslie Alexander
Mr. Dustin Kerley
Mr. Dustin Kerley
Mr. Terreyl Williams
Dr. Leslie Alexander |

6:35 p.m.	8. PUBLIC COMMENT	Board Chair
6:42 p.m.	9. CONSENT AGENDA A. Approval of the Minutes for 2/9/2026 B. Field Trip Request C. Approval to rescind Policy 4004/5021 <i>(in favor of the development of an Administrative Procedure)</i> D. Triennial Assessment of the Local School Wellness Policy E. Adoption of Multi-Year Instructional Contract: i-Ready F. Declaration of Surplus G. 2025-26 Budget Amendment #1 H. Personnel Report	Board Chair
6:45 p.m.	10. UPDATE: EXTENDED INSTRUCTIONAL DAY	Dr. Leslie Alexander
7:00 p.m.	11. POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR SECOND READ • 3220: Technology in the Educational Program • 3225/4312/7320: Technology Responsible Use • 3226/4205: Internet Safety • 3227/7322: Web Page Development • 4270/6145: Concussion and Head Injury • 6310: Organization of Student Transportation Services • 7910: Retirement	Dr. Tierra Stark
7:05 p.m.	12. POLICY: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ • 6301: Classified Staff Bus Driving Requirements	Dr. Tierra Stark
7:10 p.m.	13. BOARD OPERATIONS ➤ NCSBA Legislative Committee Nomination	Board Chair
7:15 p.m.	14. BOARD COMMENTS	Board Chair
7:20 p.m.	15. ADJOURNMENT	Board Chair



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WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DATE: February 9, 2026

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Margaret E. Gragg Education Center

PRESENT:

- Gary Childers, Alison Idol, Jay Fenwick, Charlotte Lloyd, *BOE Members*
- Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*
- Mr. Chris Campbell, *Board Attorney*

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers called the open session to order at 6:01 p.m., welcomed attendees, and observed a moment of silence.

DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

There was no discussion or adjustment of the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Alexander shared remarks regarding the upcoming retirement of Dr. Wayne Eberle at the end of the month. Since beginning his service with Watauga County Schools in 1994, Dr. Eberle has served in nearly every role imaginable, including substitute teacher, bus driver, after-school employee, third-grade teacher, assistant principal, principal, district administrator, and director. In his role as *Director of Accountability and Federal Programs*, he ensured that the district remained informed and compliant. Dr. Alexander noted that Dr. Eberle's leadership has been defined by deep knowledge, compassion, and a steady presence that has guided the district through both routine decisions and challenging moments. She shared her personal appreciation for his historical knowledge, insight, patience, diligence, and professionalism, adding that she will especially miss his sense of humor and the joy he brings to work each day.
- Watauga County Schools has experienced 17 weather-related closures so far this school year, and the goal remains to have students in school and to maximize learning whenever it is safe to do so. Each decision is guided by the safety of students and staff, particularly ensuring safe bus transportation. Dr. Alexander thanked the Weather Team and Transportation Manager Janet Tanner for the care and attention given to each decision during the winter months. She expressed gratitude to the Maintenance

Department for their efforts to keep parking lots and campuses safe and accessible. Dr. Alexander also acknowledged the flexibility of parents and families during delays, closures, and remote learning days, noting appreciation for their continued support and partnership.

➤ Recognition Dates for February:

- Black History Month
- Career and Technical Education Month
- Love the Bus Month
- National School Counseling Week (February 2–6): Dr. Alexander expressed appreciation for the 14 outstanding school counselors in Watauga County Schools who provide essential academic, social, emotional, and career support to students.
- National School Resource Officers Appreciation Day (February 15): The district is grateful for the School Resource Officers who help keep students and faculty/staff safe. The positive relationships they build with students make a meaningful difference in the school community.

STUDENTS' REPORT

- Last year, when Band was offered as a semester block rather than an A/B course at Watauga High School, it created scheduling challenges and reduced practice time for students. Administration met with students to explore solutions, and beginning next year, Band will again be offered as an A/B course, enabling students to maintain consistent practice time. Appreciation was expressed to the administration for considering student feedback and to Ms. Wooten for her adaptability.
- The Student Board Representatives will create an Instagram account to share monthly board meeting recaps, policy updates, and other information to keep students and the school community informed. The account will also allow students to submit questions or concerns. This initiative is intended to strengthen communication, ensure student voices are heard, and better connect with the student body.
- Watauga offers students many courses to explore future careers, including Journalism and Yearbook. *The Powderhorn*, Watauga High School's student newspaper, publishes weekly stories and includes two branches: *Watauga 10*, which produces videos highlighting sports and events, and *The Spark*, which incorporates art into journalism and hosts monthly poetry nights (next on February 11 at 6:00 p.m. at *Blue Deer* on King Street). The Yearbook staff works year-round to cover school events and sports, striving to feature every student multiple times and consistently earning awards for its work.
- 8th grade campus tours at Watauga High School have been completed. Students explored the campus and learned about academic courses and extracurricular opportunities. The program was led by Pioneer Ambassadors, trained WHS students who also assist new transfer students. These tours help ease the transition to high school by familiarizing students with available opportunities and introducing them to welcoming peers before their first day.
- The Indoor Track and Swim teams will compete at their state meets on February 12, and the Watauga Wrestling team will compete in their regional tournament February 13–14.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

★ **NCCAT 2026 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Beginning Teacher of the Year Finalist**

Dr. Karen Sumner, Deputy Executive Director at the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, and Dr. Terry Worrell, NCCAT Board of Trustees member, recognized Hester Claire Linville, a Kindergarten teacher at Hardin Park School, as a finalist for the NCCAT 2026 Burroughs

Wellcome Fund NC Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. This award honors Ms. Linville's outstanding contributions as a beginning teacher and her positive impact on students and the Watauga County Schools community. Recognition was also given to Travis Gillespie, Hardin Park principal, and Phil Norman, Beginning Teacher Coordinator, for their support. Finalists will participate in leadership-focused professional development in March, with the winner announced at a March 12th recognition event at Wake Forest University.

★ **"Bright Ideas" Grant Recipients**

Now in its 31st year of helping teachers bring creative learning projects to life, Blue Ridge Energy recently awarded "Bright Ideas" Grants to several educators in Watauga County Schools. Dr. Alexander expressed appreciation to Blue Ridge Energy for its continued partnership and commitment to supporting innovative teachers and classrooms.

- Haylee Bare (Watauga High School): \$1,000 for "Watauga Orchard and Gardens"
- Jennifer Brown (Blowing Rock): \$500 for "Soft Starts Are the Right Start!"
- Susan Irving (Watauga High School): \$1,000 for "Sewing Skills for Sustainability and Service"
- Emma Kate Jones (Valle Crucis): \$245 for "Middle School Makers Cart"
- Jennifer Lambert (Cove Creek): \$580 for "Lego Bricks for Fractions"
- Allyson McFalls (Blowing Rock): \$357 for "The Heat is On!: Using Solar Ovens to Explore Inquiry-Based Principles of Thermodynamics"
- Alexandra Miller (Hardin Park): \$850 for "Little Learners Toolkits"
- Laurie Nelson-Gill (Blowing Rock): \$1,139 for "Following the Science of Reading: Getting Decodable Books Into Students' Homes"

Haylee Bare and Emma Kate Jones were present to be recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Matt Coleman, a Hardin Park parent, inquired about ways to assist the district in addressing the number of snow days, expressing particular interest in exploring community stop options.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for 1/12/2026 and 2/2/2026
- B. Declaration of Surplus
- C. 2026-27 Budget Framework
- D. Personnel Report

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

RISE CALDWELL-WATAUGA

Tara Brossa, Executive Director of RISE Caldwell-Watauga, and Joe Furman, Director of Economic Development for the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, shared information about RISE (Regional Initiative for Skilled Employment) Caldwell-Watauga, which provides students with work-based and experiential learning opportunities. The initiative supports high school students and adult learners in

attaining postsecondary education and workforce credentials, and advances the educational attainment goals of Caldwell and Watauga counties in alignment with myFutureNC's 2030 targets. Since November 2025, over sixty student applications have been received, more than thirty businesses have participated, and thirty-two students are enrolled in the spring 2026 cohort.

Dr. Alexander thanked Joe Furman, Tara Brossa, CCC&TI President Dr. Mark Poarch, CTE and Student Services Director Dr. Tierra Stark, and WHS Principal Dr. Scott Strickler for their partnership. The Board expressed appreciation for the RISE program and all involved.

POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR SECOND READ

- 3400: Evaluation of Student Progress
- 3460: Graduation Requirements
- 3101: Dual Enrollment
- 4050: Children of Military Families
- 4120: Domicile or Residence Requirements
- 4240/7312: Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
- 5150/7313: Reporting to External Agencies
- 4010: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure
- 7210: Grievance Procedure for Employees
- 1325/7215: Confidential Information

Dr. Jay Fenwick moved to approve the policies. Alison Idol seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously by all Board members.

POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ

- 3220: Technology in the Educational Program
- 3225/4312/7320: Technology Responsible Use
- 3226/4205: Internet Safety
- 3227/7322: Web Page Development
- 4270/6145: Concussion and Head Injury
- 6310: Organization of Student Transportation Services
- 7910: Retirement

Dr. Tierra Stark presented the policies for first read and addressed questions from the Board. The policies will be brought to the March Board of Education meeting for second read.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Dr. Childers shared an updated 2025–26 Board Committee Assignments list. He asked Board members to consider whether the time of Board meetings during the winter months (December–March) should be moved to an earlier time next year. Dr. Childers also asked members to consider a NCSBA Legislative Committee nomination, with a recommendation to be made at the March Board of Education meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Childers expressed that the Board deeply appreciates and will miss Dr. Wayne Eberle, highlighting his willingness to step in wherever needed and the dependable support he has provided over the years. Dr.

Eberle made brief remarks, saying he will miss the people the most and that he is proud and deeply thankful to have been part of the Watauga County Schools family.

Charlotte Lloyd commended the Student Board Representatives for their outstanding work.

ADJOURNMENT

Charlotte Lloyd moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Jay Fenwick. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Board of Education Chair

Dr. Leslie Alexander, Superintendent

WATAUGA COUNTY FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

This request is for a: ___ day trip ___ out of state day trip ___ overnight trip ☒ overnight & out of state trip

Day and overnight trips must be submitted to the principal 15 days before the trip. In-state overnight requests require the approval of the principal, Transportation Director, and Superintendent. Out-of-state field trip requests must be submitted to the Superintendent by the first day of each month, and require prior approval of the principal, Transportation Director, Superintendent, and Board of Education. All trips utilizing rental or charter vehicles require the prior approval of the transportation director. No employee will transport students in a personal vehicle and no employee or volunteer driver will transport students in a 12-15 passenger van. No more than five students will be transported by a school system employee or volunteer in any one vehicle other than a school bus or activity bus. The superintendent has the discretion to approve field trips on an emergency basis when the timing is between regular Board of Education meetings. The superintendent shall notify the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting of any trips approved on an emergency basis and the rationale.

Sponsoring teacher: (Print) Olivia Tarnowski School: WHS/1A

Cell phone number: 828-963-0178 Grade(s): 10-12 Number of students: 8

Departure date: Friday, April 24, 2026 Return date: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Departure time: Morning Return time: Afternoon

Educational purpose:

Trip destination including city, state, and all places to be visited: (attach detailed itinerary as needed)

Atlanta, GA / Georgia World Congress Center, GA / Mercedes-Benz Stadium, GA / NC DECA Hotel (TRD), GA
(Intercontinental Buckhead Atlanta OR JW Marriott Atlanta Buckhead)

Purpose of trip and how it relates to the curriculum: The DECA International Career Development Conference (International Competition) is the highest level a DECA member has the opportunity to compete at. Students compete in role plays, attend workshops, and network with industry professionals, college representatives, and over 23,000 DECA members from around the world. This competition truly extends learning beyond the classroom.

Supervision and Safety:

Names of all school staff chaperones: Olivia Tarnowski & Emily Morris

Names of all non-school chaperones: _____

All chaperones have a background check completed: ☒ Sponsoring teacher initials: OT
Are all site(s) accessible to students with disabilities? ☒ yes ☐ no How will students with disabilities be
accommodated for site access and transportation? All sites meet ADA requirements.

A safety/supervision plan for high risk and/or water activities has been shared with the parents. Please attach a copy of
the plan to this form if applicable. Sponsoring Teacher Initials (If applicable) OT

Transportation plan:

Mode of transportation: ☐ Yellow bus with wheelchair lift ☐ Yellow bus without wheelchair lift
☐ Activity bus with wheelchair lift ☐ Activity bus without wheelchair lift ☐ Rental car/minivan
☐ Charter bus ☒ Other (Please explain) plane, taxis, DECA-provided smuties

Name of charter bus company (if checked above) _____

(If applicable, bus request form must be attached)

Driver/s: _____ Round trip mileage: _____ # of buses needed: _____

Total cost per student \$ 1500 Source of funds: OPE Funds & Personal

The sponsoring teacher has reviewed Board policies 3320, 3320-R, and 6315: Teacher initials: _____

Approval/Signatures:

Sponsoring teacher signature: Olivia Tarnowski Date: 3 / 3 / 26

Principal approval: [Signature] Date: 3 / 3 / 26

Required signatures if applicable:

Transportation Director approval: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Superintendent approval: [Signature] Date: 3 / 5 / 26

Board of Education approval: _____ Date: ____/____/____



INTERNATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

ATLANTA | 2026

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Chartered Association Advisor Check-in + Luncheon <i>By invitation only</i> <i>Chapter advisors register with their chartered association advisor at their assigned hotel</i>	GWCC
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SATURDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 AM	Event Directors' Briefing <i>Sponsored by College Board</i>	GWCC
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Headquarters + Attraction Ticket Booth	GWCC
10:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Shop DECA + Blazer Shop	GWCC
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Explore Atlanta or Competition Preparation <i>On your own</i>	
10:00 AM	Executive Officer Candidate Orientation + Interviews	GWCC
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Exhibit Booth Set-up	GWCC
5:00 PM	Parade of Chartered Associations Rehearsal	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
6:30 PM	National Advisory Board + Executive Mentor Reception <i>By invitation only</i>	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
8:00 PM	Grand Opening Session	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
12:30 AM	Curfew <i>Chapters and chartered associations may set earlier curfew times</i>	Assigned Hotel

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Headquarters + Attraction Ticket Booth	GWCC
7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Shop DECA + Blazer Shop	GWCC
7:30 AM	Judge Check-in	GWCC
8:00 AM	MDA Fundraising Recognition Breakfast <i>Sponsored by the Muscular Dystrophy Association By invitation only</i>	GWCC
8:00 AM - 11:30 AM	School-based Enterprise Academy Food Operations	Omni Hotel
8:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Emerging Leader Series	GWCC
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	College + Career Exhibits <i>Advisors only from 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</i>	GWCC
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Competitive Event Testing <i>Principles of Business Administration Events, Personal Financial Literacy, Team Decision Making Events, Individual Series Events, Integrated Marketing Campaign Events, Professional Selling and Consulting Events</i>	GWCC
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Competitive Event Preliminary Competition <i>Business Operations, Research Events, Project Management Events, Entrepreneurship Written Events, Stock Market Game</i>	GWCC
9:00 AM	Virtual Business Challenge Participants' Briefing	GWCC
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Advisor Professional Learning Series	GWCC
9:30 AM	Executive Mentor Program	GWCC
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Virtual Business Challenge Competition	GWCC
12:00 PM - 3:30 PM	School-based Enterprise Academy Retail Operations	Omni Hotel
4:00 PM	Voting Delegates' Briefing + Candidate Campaign Sessions	GWCC
5:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Choose Your Own ATL Adventure <i>Advance ticket purchase required</i>	
12:30 AM	Curfew <i>Chapters and chartered associations may set earlier curfew times</i>	Assigned Hotel

MONDAY, APRIL 27

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Headquarters + Attraction Ticket Booth	GWCC
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Shop DECA	GWCC
7:30 AM	Judge Check-In	GWCC
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	College + Career Exhibits	GWCC
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM	Emerging Leader Series	GWCC
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Competitive Event Preliminary Competition <i>Principles of Business Administration Events, Personal Financial Literacy, Team Decision Making Events, Individual Series Events, Integrated Marketing Campaign Events, Professional Selling and Consulting Event</i>	GWCC
8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	School-based Enterprise Preliminary Competition	GWCC
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Advisor Professional Learning Series	GWCC
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Virtual Business Challenge Competition	GWCC
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Chartered Association Officer + Advisor Luncheon <i>Sponsored by the US Army By invitation only</i>	GWCC
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Leadership Recognition Reception <i>By invitation only</i>	GWCC
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Meet the Candidates Session <i>Open to all members</i>	GWCC
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Competitive Events Update Address only	GWCC
5:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Choose Your Own ATL Adventure <i>Advance ticket purchase required</i>	
12:30 AM	Curfew <i>Chapters and chartered associations may set earlier curfew times</i>	Assigned Hotel

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

7:30 AM – 6:00 PM	Headquarters	GWCC
8:00 AM	Achievement Awards Session	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
8:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Judge Check-In	GWCC
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Shop DECA + Finalist T-Shirts + Recognition Items	GWCC
8:30 AM – 6:00 PM	Competitive Event Final Competition	GWCC
12:00 PM	Business + Election Session	GWCC
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Scholarship + National Advisory Board Reception <i>Sponsored by National Advisory Board Partners By invitation only</i>	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
7:30 PM	Grand Awards Session	Mercedes-Benz Stadium
12:30 AM	Curfew <i>Chapters and chartered associations may set earlier curfew times</i>	Assigned Hotel

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	New Executive Officer Orientation	Omni Hotel
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Check deca.org/icdc for updates. Events will be held in the **GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER** unless otherwise noted.

Safety Plan for Hotel Pool: DECA

Students will follow the "buddy system" at all times and will be in groups of at least two students at all times when leaving their hotel room. The pool at JW Marriott Atlanta Buckhead has one indoor pool. During students' free time at the hotel, I will be circulating around the popular areas students may visit including the dining areas and the lobby. **The other chaperone will be stationed at the indoor pool during students' free time at the hotel to monitor and supervise.**

CPR-Certified

If students choose to go to the indoor pool, they will follow the guidelines below:

1. Students are only allowed to visit the pool at the JW Marriott Atlanta Buckhead which includes one indoor swimming pool
2. Students will follow the directions posted around the indoor swimming pool to ensure their safety
3. Students will be respectful of all other patrons visiting the indoor swimming pool
4. Students must adhere to indoor swimming pool operating hours and our set curfew timelines

This safety plan will be included in the contract that students and parents / guardians sign prior to departing for this trip.

My signature acknowledges that I have read and understand the information for the DECA International Career Development Conference and agree to comply completely (including picking my student up early from Atlanta if needed).

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

Please write your name legibly.

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

*I will not know which hotel NC DECA has been assigned to until March 16th so I made water safety plans for both options.

Safety Plan for Hotel Pool: DECA

Students will follow the "buddy system" at all times and will be in groups of at least two students at all times when leaving their hotel room. The pool at Intercontinental Buckhead Atlanta has one outdoor pool. During students' free time at the hotel, I will be circulating around the popular areas students may visit including the dining areas and the lobby. **The other chaperone will be stationed at the outdoor pool during students' free time at the hotel to monitor and supervise.**

If students choose to go to the indoor pool, they will follow the guidelines below:

5. Students are only allowed to visit the pool at the Intercontinental Buckhead Atlanta which includes one outdoor swimming pool
6. Students will follow the directions posted around the outdoor swimming pool to ensure their safety
7. Students will be respectful of all other patrons visiting the outdoor swimming pool
8. Students must adhere to outdoor swimming pool operating hours and our set curfew timelines

This safety plan will be included in the contract that students and parents / guardians sign prior to departing for this trip.

My signature acknowledges that I have read and understand the information for the DECA International Career Development Conference and agree to comply completely (including picking my student up early from Atlanta if needed).

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

Please write your name legibly.

PARENT SIGNATURE

DATE

The Board does not permit private outside providers, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (“ABA”) therapists, physical therapists (“PTs”), occupational therapists (“OTs”), and mental health providers, to accompany students on campus during the school day. Students wishing to receive private therapy must do so off campus and are encouraged to do so outside of school hours.

I. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Watauga County Schools is responsible for providing all students with special needs accommodations, specially designed instruction, related services, supplemental aides, and supports they need to access their educational services. Private providers working with students with special needs may be permitted to collaborate with school staff.

Parents may invite their private providers to participate in IEP or 504 team meetings, as individuals with knowledge or special expertise about their child, or to provide written recommendations to the school. Parents are also encouraged to provide consent for any private providers to exchange information and records with school staff regarding the child’s services and needs.

a. ABA and IEP Documents

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”) does not require a methodology, such as ABA, be written into IEPs, but it does ask that Evidence Based Practices (“EBPs”) be used to the extent practicable. Watauga County Schools teachers are trained in and implement multiple EBPs in the classroom and whole school environment. A methodology, such as ABA, consists of multiple EBPs.

IEP teams must put a comprehensive program in place to accommodate various instructional strategies and methodologies. Specifying a methodology within the IEP may limit the ability of the school district to do so.

ABA is not a related service under IDEA and the choice of educational methodology is left to the school-based educators by IDEA.

b. Modified Day for Private Outside Provider Services

Watauga County Schools is required to serve eligible student’s educational needs through their IEP. The provision of outside services during the school day may impede the ability of Watauga County Schools to provide a student with a free appropriate public education.

A parent may request their child be placed on a modified school day in order to receive private outside provider services. If such a request is made, the student’s IEP Team shall conduct a meeting to determine whether placement on a modified day is educationally necessary for the child.

c. Removal of Students for Private Outside Provider Services Without Modified Day

If the IEP Team has determined that a modified day is not educationally necessary for a student, but the student's parent or guardian has indicated they intend to take their child out of school each day, or on a regular basis, for outside provider services, certain consequences may apply.

If a child is removed from school prior to 11:30 a.m., the student will be considered absent for the entirety of the school day. If a physician has prescribed a therapy to which this policy applies, these absences will be treated as excused medical absences with appropriate documentation provided as required by Board Policy 4400.

Nothing in this policy changes the requirements to report excessive, unexcused absences under G.S. 115C-378.

Consistent removal of a student from the school day by a parent for the purpose of receiving services from a private outside provider may impact the ability of Watauga County Schools to gather complete data on a student's academic levels and impede the student's ability to make progress on IEP goals. Removal from the school day may also result in the student missing services to which they are entitled by their IEP.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-378

Cross References: Special Education Program/Rights of Students with Disabilities (policy 3520), Attendance (4400)

Adopted: July 11, 2024

Triennial Assessment

Completed January 2026



What is this assessment?

Every **three(3) years**, school districts who participate in the **federal meal program** review their **Local School Wellness Policy**. The required review evaluates how well the district **policies** and **practices** support:

- Student Nutrition
- Physical Activity & Physical Education
- Nutrition Education
- Overall Student & Staff Wellness

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ School meals meet **USDA standards**
- ✓ **Smart Snacks** standards are followed
- ✓ Access to **free drinking water**
- ✓ **Adequate time** for meals
- ✓ Publicly available **policy** and results
- ✓ Nutrition **education** across grades
- ✓ Daily **physical activity** opportunities
- ✓ **Staff** encouraged to **model** behaviors

AREAS FOR GROWTH

- ⚠ Improve **consistency** across schools
- ⚠ **Strengthen guidance** around fundraisers and celebrations
- ⚠ Expand physical activity **opportunities**
- ⚠ Increase **awareness** of nutrition standards
- ⚠ Strengthen school-level wellness **coordination**

WCS District Wellness Goals & Commitment

Nutrition Promotion



Nutrition Education



Physical Education & Activity



Other School-Based Wellness Promotion Activities



Watauga County Schools remains committed to continuous improvement and to creating healthy, supportive learning environments for all students.

Watauga County Schools completed its most recent assessment in January 2026 using the nationally recognized WellSAT evaluation tools.



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Watauga County Board of Education

FROM: Phil Norman, CAO; Joseph Nash, CFO

SUBJECT: Approval of Multi-Year Instructional Contract: i-Ready (Curriculum Associates)

DATE: March 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Education,

The administration recommends the Board of Education approve a four-year contract with Curriculum Associates for the i-Ready platform in the amount of \$634,572.40. This renewal is made without a formal bidding process under the sole source and standardization exceptions provided in WCS Policy 6430 Section E.5 and G.S. 143-129(e)(6). Three years ago a committee was formed by the curriculum team to review research supported vendors' products to determine the most appropriate resource. This committee was composed of teacher representatives from each school and curriculum team facilitators. At that time Curriculum Associates was chosen as the vendor by a nearly unanimous decision. This year, teacher and staff feedback was collected to determine whether we as a district would continue with this resource or convene another resource review committee. Based on this feedback it was decided that the staff and teachers desired to continue with our current resource from Curriculum Associates. i-Ready is currently the district-wide standard for K-8 diagnostic assessment and personalized learning. Continued use ensures data continuity and avoids the significant costs associated with retraining staff on a new platform. Curriculum Associates is the sole provider of the integrated i-Ready diagnostic and instruction system. By committing to a 4-year term, the district secures multi-year pricing discounts. This purchase will be made upfront in this fiscal year with a mix of state and local funds, and has been included in the currently adopted budget. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is for Phil Norman and the second is for Joseph Nash. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phil Norman; Joseph Nash
Enclosure (2)

Long Range Curriculum Plan

2025-2026 – Math Curriculum Adoption (4 Years). \$635,000.

- State Textbook Funding Previous Year & Current Year \$300,000
- Local Funding \$170,000
- Other Funding (Indirect Costs, Interest Income) \$165,000

2026-2027 – ELA Curriculum Adoption (4 Years). \$451,000.

- State Textbook Funding \$170,000
- Local Funding \$170,000
- Other Funding (Indirect Costs, Interest Income) \$111,000

2027-2028 – Social Studies Curriculum Adoption (4 years).

- State Textbook Funding \$170,000
- Local Funding \$170,000

2028-2029 – Science Curriculum Adoption (4 years).

- State Textbook Funding \$170,000
 - Local Funding \$170,000
-

Curriculum Associates®

Prepared For:

Meredith Jones
Watauga County Schools
175 Pioneer Trl,
Boone, NC 28607

26-27 RCL 4Y Renewal with 100% Instruction + PL

12/23/2025

Dear Meredith Jones,

Thank you for requesting a price quote from Curriculum Associates. The chart below provides a summary of the products and i-Ready Partner Services included. If you have any questions or would like any changes, please contact us.

Implementation Starting: 2026-2027

Quote ID: 399712.5

Quote Valid through: 12/31/2026

Product	List Price	Net Price
i-Ready Classroom + i-Ready	\$970,659.60	\$513,790.00
i-Ready Classroom	\$137,020.00	\$0.00
Professional Learning	\$76,800.00	\$76,800.00
i-Ready Partners Services	\$72,000.00	\$0.00
List Total:		\$1,256,479.60
Savings:		\$665,889.60
Shipping/Tax/Other:		\$43,982.40
Total:		\$634,572.40

Thank you again for your interest in Curriculum Associates.

Sincerely

Jake Jung
(414) 614-4661
jjung@cainc.com

i-Ready Partners Services Includes:

- **Initial Implementation Services:** Provisioning, Initial Rostering, Hosting, Technology Assessment
- **Implementation Management:** Partner Success Manager You Know On A First Name Basis, Implementation Guidance, Realtime Achievement Data After Every Assessment, Ongoing Data Management
- **Staff Development Consultation and Resources:** Consultative services to help you plan and make the most of Professional Learning sessions; Access to Online Educator Learning (OEL) Digital Courses, and i-Ready Central Self-Service Resources
- **Technical Support:** Proactive Network Monitoring & Issue Notification, Annual Health Check, Technical Support

Please submit this quote with your purchase order

Curriculum Associates®

Quote ID: 399712.5

Date: 12/23/2025

Quote Valid through: 12/31/2026

Prepared For:

Meredith Jones
Watauga County Schools
175 Pioneer Trl,
Boone, NC 28607
jonesm@wataugaschools.org
8282647190

Your Representative:

Jake Jung
(414) 614-4661
jjung@cainc.com

26-27 RCL 4Y Renewal with 100% Instruction + PL

Bethel ES 138 Bethel School Rd, Sugar Grove, NC 28679

Total Building Enrollment: 134, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	10	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$1,910.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	6	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$1,146.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	12	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,292.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	11	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,101.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	17	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,247.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	13	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,483.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	10	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$1,910.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	14	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,674.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	14	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,674.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	9	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Subtotal: \$20,437.00

Shipping: \$863.49

Tax: \$886.00

School Subtotal: \$22,186.49

Blowing Rock School 165 Morris St, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Total Building Enrollment: 417, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	20	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,820.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	19	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,629.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	44	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$8,404.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	51	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$9,741.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	42	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$8,022.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	49	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$9,359.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	31	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,921.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	45	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$8,595.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	27	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,157.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	15	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Subtotal:	\$62,648.00
					Shipping:	\$2,647.01
					Tax:	\$2,715.91
					School Subtotal:	\$68,010.92

Cove Creek ES 930 Vanderpool Rd, Vilas, NC 28692

Total Building Enrollment: 285, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	25	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$4,775.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	25	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$4,775.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	26	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$4,966.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	30	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,730.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	36	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$6,876.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	20	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,820.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	33	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$6,303.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	24	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$4,584.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	37	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$7,067.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	17	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal:						\$48,896.00
Shipping:						\$2,065.92
Tax:						\$2,119.76
School Subtotal:						\$53,081.68

Green Valley ES 189 Big Hill Rd, Boone, NC 28607

Total Building Enrollment: 254, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	20	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,820.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	20	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,820.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	23	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$4,393.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	34	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$6,494.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	24	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$4,584.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	31	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,921.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	31	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,921.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	31	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,921.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	31	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,921.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	13	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Subtotal:	\$46,795.00
					Shipping:	\$1,977.15
					Tax:	\$2,028.64
					School Subtotal:	\$50,800.79

Hardin Park ES 361 Jefferson Rd, Boone, NC 28607

Total Building Enrollment: 849, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	77	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$14,707.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	77	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$14,707.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	83	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$15,853.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	96	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$18,336.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	95	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$18,145.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	87	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$16,617.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	100	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$19,100.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	88	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$16,808.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	77	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$14,707.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	24	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Subtotal:	\$148,980.00
					Shipping:	\$6,294.69
					Tax:	\$6,458.58
					School Subtotal:	\$161,733.27

Mabel ES 404 Mabel School Rd, Zionville, NC 28698

Total Building Enrollment: 137, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	14	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,674.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	14	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,674.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	13	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,483.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	13	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,483.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	16	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,056.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	16	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,056.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	19	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$3,629.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	12	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,292.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	15	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$2,865.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	10	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Subtotal:	\$25,212.00
					Shipping:	\$1,065.24
					Tax:	\$1,093.01
					School Subtotal:	\$27,370.25

Parkway ES 160 Parkway School Dr, Boone, NC 28607

Total Building Enrollment: 633, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	40	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$7,640.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	39	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$7,449.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	51	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$9,741.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	58	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$11,078.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	66	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$12,606.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	68	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$12,988.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	67	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$12,797.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	67	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$12,797.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	55	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$10,505.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	20	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Subtotal:	\$97,601.00
					Shipping:	\$4,123.86
					Tax:	\$4,231.17
					School Subtotal:	\$105,956.03

Valle Crucis ES 2998 Broadstone Rd, Boone, NC 28607

Total Building Enrollment: 331, Grade Range: K - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade K 4 Years	K	35481.0	33	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$6,303.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 1 4 Years	1	35482.0	33	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$6,303.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 2 4 Years	2	35483.0	31	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,921.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 3 4 Years	3	35484.0	29	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,539.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 4 4 Years	4	35485.0	30	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$5,730.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 5 4 Years	5	35486.0	47	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$8,977.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	32	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$6,112.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	41	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$7,831.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	43	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$8,213.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	13	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
					Subtotal:	\$60,929.00
					Shipping:	\$2,574.36
					Tax:	\$2,641.41
					School Subtotal:	\$66,144.77

Watauga Virtual Academy 175 Pioneer Trl, Boone, NC 28607

Total Building Enrollment: 25, Grade Range: 4 - 8

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Online Educator Learning Site License - Digital PL Courses and Personalized Learning to Complement Professional Learning Sessions	Multiple	40124.0	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 6 4 Years	6	35487.0	4	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$764.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 7 4 Years	7	35488.0	4	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$764.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Student Worktext with Digital Access Package + i-Ready Personalized Instruction Grade 8 4 Years	8	35489.0	4	\$360.84	\$191.00	\$764.00
i-Ready Classroom 2024 Mathematics Teacher Digital Access Volume 1 + 2 Grade K-8 4 Years	K-8	35598.0	3	\$1,105.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
i-Ready Partners Core Support - Provisioning + Tech Support + Hosting + Data Management + Implementation Planning + Data Reviews + and Check ins 4 Years	Multiple	27125.0	1	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal:						\$2,292.00
Shipping:						\$96.84
Tax:						\$99.36
School Subtotal:						\$2,488.20

Watauga County Schools 175 Pioneer Trl, Boone, NC 28607

Total Building Enrollment: 3058, Grade Range: PK - 12

Product Name	Grade	Item #	Qty	List Price	Net Price	Total
Professional Learning Session (up to 6 hours) AY 26-27	Multiple	38559.0	8	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$19,200.00
Professional Learning Session (up to 6 hours) AY 27-28	Multiple	38560.0	8	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$19,200.00
Professional Learning Session (up to 6 hours) AY 28-29	Multiple	38561.0	8	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$19,200.00
Professional Learning Session (up to 6 hours) AY 29-30	Multiple	38562.0	8	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$19,200.00
Subtotal:						\$76,800.00
Shipping:						\$0.00
Tax:						\$0.00
School Subtotal:						\$76,800.00

Total	
List Total:	\$1,256,479.60
Savings:	\$665,889.60
Merchandise Total:	\$590,590.00
Voucher/Credit:	\$0.00
Estimated Tax:	\$22,273.84
Estimated Shipping:	\$21,708.56
Total:	\$634,572.40

Special Notes

Math teacher materials gratis at up to 1:25 ratio (add'l access paid). All i-Ready purchases require PL.

PO & payment req'd upfront for full value of sale.

F.O.B.: N. Billerica, MA 01862

Shipping: Shipping based on MDSE total

Terms: Net 30 days, pending credit approval

Fed. ID: #26-3954988

Please submit this quote with your purchase order

Y10

Curriculum Associates

Multiyear Purchase: Core Literacy and Core Math

Curriculum Associates is pleased to offer an industry-best, flexible, subscription-based model for multiyear purchases of both print and digital products. Please see below for more information about your multiyear purchase.

Included in Purchase:

Student Materials

- Annual shipment of consumable printed student materials for full term of subscription
- Includes reallocation of the quantities of originally purchased student materials of an equivalent price across schools, grades, and available languages (English/Spanish) as necessary (mathematics only)
- Digital student access for full term of subscription

Teacher Materials

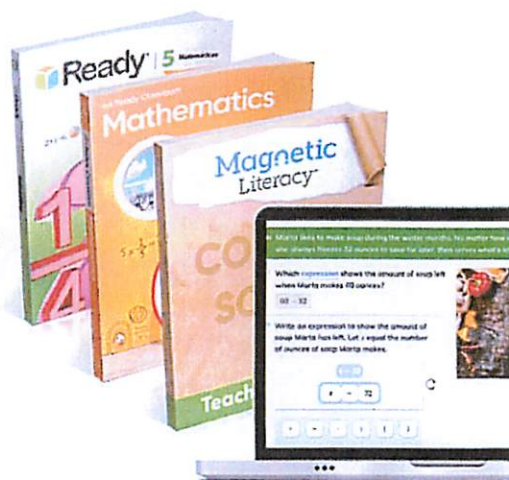
- First-year shipment of printed teacher materials and printed program components
- Digital teacher access for full term of subscription

Please Note:

- The quantities purchased are an annual allotment. Shipments of materials in Year 2 and beyond must match total quantity on the original purchase order. Any additional student materials needed will require a new purchase order. Partial returns of quantities cannot be accommodated.
- Teacher materials are provided gratis at a ratio of one teacher set per 25 student sets purchased during the initial fulfillment year only. A new purchase order is required for any additional teacher materials in subsequent years.
- Purchase order and payment are required up front for full value of sale.
- Professional learning is required.
- Price does not include exchanges or upgrades to products other than the product indicated on the original purchase order.

Curriculum Associates Stands behind Its Products

Our goal is to **ensure any product you purchase from us meets or exceeds expectations**. We stand behind our programs and strive to clearly and accurately describe their features and functionality. If for any reason you are not satisfied with our products, upon request we will provide a refund for products and services not yet delivered or provided. Note that print materials that have been used and/or are not in "saleable condition" and individual components of *Magnetic Literacy*, *i-Ready Classroom Mathematics*, and *Ready* student and teacher sets that have been separated out are not eligible for return.



Curriculum Associates®

Information on Professional Learning Sessions

Protecting the health and safety of the educators we serve and their students, as well as the health and safety of our employees, is of paramount importance to Curriculum Associates. In the event of a (i) government-declared public health emergency or (ii) weather event, that materially impacts in-person instruction, sessions may transition to a virtual format. Curriculum Associates' policy is to only provide PL sessions in person where one of our employees can reach the session site by car and where adequate safety measures are in place to protect the health of our session leaders and participants. Curriculum Associates reserves the right to switch any session from in-person to virtual if we cannot safely reach a session site, or if adequate health safety measures cannot be put in place.

If your school or district will not permit visitors at the time of a scheduled session, Curriculum Associates would be happy to provide an equivalent live, virtual session via videoconference. Similarly, Curriculum Associates will comply with your school or district's health and safety requirements regarding on-site visitors if we are given adequate advance notice.

Any questions regarding scheduling in-person or virtual training sessions should be directed to pdoperations@cainc.com.



Unparalleled Service and Educator Support

The *i-Ready Partners* team was born from our core value: the quality of our services is as important as the quality of our products. Know that when you implement our programs, your local *i-Ready Partners* will be there to support your team every step of the way.

Service Components

Our *i-Ready Partners* team is tasked with helping you implement our programs to meet ambitious district goals. *i-Ready Partners* support includes:

- **An Account Manager You Know on a First-Name Basis:** Dedicated account managers are your point of connection to a powerful network of *i-Ready* experts focused on making your implementation successful.
- **Consultative Professional Development Planning:** Tailored professional development plans ensure that PD is tied to your implementation goals and that educators are equipped to optimize the use of our programs from day one.
- **Real-Time Achievement Data after Every Assessment:** Detailed student achievement analytics to empower data-driven practices in classrooms.
- **Educational Consultants to Help You Know What's Coming Next:** Educational consultants to keep you up to speed on our latest research, development, and best practices.
- **Technical Support and Health Checks:** Proactive support that anticipates and heads off issues before they start—and is there for you should they arise.



Account
Management



Professional
Development



Educational
Consultants



Achievement
Analytics



Technical
Support

Your *i-Ready Partners* Team

Dedicated to helping you implement *i-Ready* programs and achieve your district goals



Curriculum Associates

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Curriculum Associates®

Placing an Order

Email: Orders@cainc.com

Submit PO by Mail:

ATTN: CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPT.
Curriculum Associates LLC
153 Rangeway Rd
North Billerica, MA 01862-2013

Submit Order by Check:

Curriculum Associates, LLC
PO Box 936600
Atlanta, GA 31193-6600

Please visit CurriculumAssociates.com for more information about placing orders or contact CA's customer service department (1-800-225-0248) and reference quote number for questions.

Please attach quote to all signed purchase orders.

If tax exempt, please submit a valid exemption certificate with PO and quote in order to avoid processing delays. Exemption certificates can also be submitted to exempt@cainc.com.

Shipping Policy

Unless otherwise noted, shipping costs are calculated as follows:

Order Amount	Freight Amount
\$74.99 or less	Max charge of \$12.75
\$75.00 to \$999.99	12% of order
\$1,000 to \$4,999.99	10% of order

Order Amount	Freight Amount
\$5,000.00 to \$99,999.99	9% of order
\$100,000 and more	8% of order

Please contact your local CA representative or customer service (1-800-225-0248) for expedited shipping rates. The weight limit for an expedited order is 500lbs.

The enhanced shipping and handling services listed below are available upon request subject to the availability of our carrier partners. Please notify us of these delivery requests prior to submitting your PO so that we can include the service on your quote appropriately:

- White Glove Delivery Service \$1000/delivery/site

If our carrier partners are unable to deliver to the location instructed on the PO or you need to change the time or location of delivery, one or more of the following fees may be applicable:

- Delivery Address Change \$500/shipment location
- Freight Storage \$1000/shipment location
- Freight Carrier Redelivery \$350/pallet

Unless otherwise expressly indicated, the shipping terms for all deliveries is FOB CA's Shipping Point (whether to a CA or third party facility). Risk of loss and title is passed to purchaser upon transfer of the goods to carrier, standard shipping charges (listed above) are added to the invoice or included in the unit price unless otherwise specified.

Supply chain challenges outside of Curriculum Associates' control may impact inventory availability for print product. We recommend submission of purchase orders as soon as possible to help ensure timely delivery.

Payment Terms

Payment terms are as follows:

- With credit approval: Net 30 days
- Without credit approval: payment in full at time of order
- Accounts must be current before subsequent shipments are made

To ensure payment processing is timely and environmentally conscious, CA encourages ACH payments. If you would like to pay via ACH, please request remittance information by emailing AR@cainc.com.

Please send any payment notifications to payments@cainc.com. Credit card payments are only accepted for purchases under \$50,000.

Invoice Receipt Preference

CA is pleased to offer electronic invoice delivery. Electronic invoice delivery allows CA to deliver your invoice in a timely and environmentally friendly manner. To request electronic invoice delivery please contact the CA Accounts Receivable team at invoices@cainc.com or by fax (1-800-366-1158). Please reference your quote number, provide a valid email address where the invoice should be directed, and indicate you would like to opt into electronic invoice delivery.

Terms of Service

Customer's use of i-Ready® shall be subject to the i-Ready Terms and Conditions of Use, which can be found at i-ready.com/support. Customer's professional learning sessions will expire two years following the date of your purchase order or the implementation year noted on your quote, whichever comes first and are subject to the Professional Learning Terms of Service, which can be found at curriculumassociates.com/support/privacy-and-policies.

Return Policy

For any non-print products - your subscription may be terminated and you may request a pro-rata refund for unused services within 90 days of license start date. For Professional Learning services, you may request a refund for unused services within 90 days of purchase date. After 90 days, your non-print products and Professional Learning purchase shall be final and no refunds are available. Except for materials sold on a non-refundable basis, purchaser may return, at purchaser risk and expense, purchased print materials with pre-approval from CA's Customer Service department within 12 months of purchase. Please examine your order upon receipt. Before returning material, call CA's Customer Service department (1-800-225-0248 option 2) for return authorization and documentation. When returning material, please include your return authorization number and the return form that will be provided to you by CA's Return department. We do not accept returns on unused i-Ready or Toolbox licenses®, materials that have been used and/or are not in "saleable condition," and individual components of kits or sets including but not limited to BRIGANCE® Kits, Ready® student and teacher sets, i-Ready Classroom® student and teacher sets, and Magnetic Foundation and Literacy classroom kits.

Declaration of Surplus Items - MARCH 2026

Date Approved: _____

Bethel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
100507	1	CART- FLATBED		1
	1		0	1

Blowing Rock

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
38124	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
NONE	1	WOODEN PLAY FRIDGE		1
NONE	1	WOODEN PLAY STOVE	1	
NONE	1	FILE CABINET- TAN	1	
NONE	1	FILE CABINET- BLACK	1	
NONE	1	TABLE	1	
35295	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
38093	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
38146	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
200112	1	SMARTBOARD		1
200113	1	PROJECTOR		1
	11		4	7

Cove Creek

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
800802	1	VOLLEYBALL POLES AND NETS		1
800480	1	VOLLEYBALL POLES AND NETS		1
800110	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
36683	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP G9		1
35677	1	CHROMEBOOK- 100e		1
36721	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP G9		1
	6		0	6

Green Valley

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE	1	MICROSCOPE- RED		1
NONE	1	MICROSCOPE- RED		1
NONE	1	MICROSCOPE- RED		1
NONE	1	MICROSCOPE- RED		1
NONE	1	MICROSCOPE- RED		1
NONE	1	MICROSCOPE- RED		1
35597	1	CHROMEBOOK		1
7			0	7

Hardin Park

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
500364	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
37923	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP		1
33645	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
35078	1	ELITEBOOK- HP G2		1
500641	1	DOC CAMERA- IPEVO		1
35464	1	CHROMEBOOK- 100e		1
36247	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
7			0	7

Mabel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
600078	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
36319	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
2			0	2

Parkway

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
33925	1	PROJECTOR		1
300109	1	SMARTBOARD		1

2

0

2

Valle Crucis

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
36881	1	CHROMEBOOK- HP G9		1
300187	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1
300137	1	DOC CAMERA- ELMO		1

3

0

3

Watauga High School

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
80387	1	DESKTOP- HP Z-240		1
33660	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
34553	1	CHROMEBOOK- 300e		1
38175	1	CHROMEBOOK HP		1
42339	1	ACCESS POINT- WIRELESS		1

5

0

5

Watauga High School- CTE DEPARTMENT

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
80433	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80453	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80456	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80457	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80458	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80459	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80460	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80461	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80462	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80463	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80464	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80465	1	dual monitor stand	1	
80466	1	dual monitor stand	1	

Central Office

Technology Department

Transportation Department

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

Maintenance Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	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: March 9, 2026

RE: 2025-26 Budget Amendment #1

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution of Watauga County Schools for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. The primary reason for these amendments is changing allotments from NC DPI for State and Federal funds. Examples of these include, but are not limited to: PRC 016 Summer Reading Camps, PRC 029 Behavioral Support, PRC 032 Children with Disabilities, PRC 046 and 048 for 3rd Grade Read to Achieve Bonus and other principal and teacher performance bonuses, PRC 063 Children with Disabilities – Special Funds, PRC 083 CTE Credentials, etc. There were also increased allotments for many Federal 2025 grants. For example, we received \$97,171 of additional funding in PRC 060 IDEA 2025 grant for EC program salaries. These changes in allotments account for the budget amendments in Fund 1 and Fund 3.

The Fund 5 and Fund 6 budget amendments are simply to move indirect costs from the 7xxx purpose code to the 8xxx purpose code. They were incorrectly coded with our original budget resolution.

The Fund 8 budget amendment is to move anticipated savings from indirect costs and interest income to instructional services, in order to prepare for purchasing an i-Ready curriculum renewal.

Watauga County Schools
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
March 9, 2026

Fund	1 digit Purp	1 digit Purp Desc	Beginning Budget/Beg Balance	Budget Adjustments	Current Budget/Balance
1 - STATE	5XXX	Instructional Services	\$32,983,371.36	\$201,289.50	\$33,184,660.86
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	\$3,966,790.62	\$0.00	\$3,966,790.62
	7XXX	Ancillary Services	\$46,372.59	\$0.00	\$46,372.59
1 Total			\$36,996,534.57	\$201,289.50	\$37,197,824.07
2 - LOCAL	5XXX	Instructional Services	\$8,916,127.85	\$0.00	\$8,916,127.85
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	\$7,415,469.91	\$0.00	\$7,415,469.91
	7XXX	Ancillary Services	\$94,985.18	\$0.00	\$94,985.18
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	\$460,000.00	\$0.00	\$460,000.00
2 Total			\$16,886,582.94	\$0.00	\$16,886,582.94
3 - FEDERAL	5XXX	Instructional Services	\$1,926,590.00	\$196,125.73	\$2,122,715.73
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	\$94,274.82	\$10,805.85	\$105,080.67
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	\$572,477.00	\$4,524.60	\$577,001.60
3 Total			\$2,593,341.82	\$211,456.18	\$2,804,798.00
4 - CAPITAL	5XXX	Instructional Services	\$2,532,746.83	\$0.00	\$2,532,746.83
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	\$1,136,170.38	\$0.00	\$1,136,170.38
	9XXX	Capital Outlay	\$10,101,297.41	\$0.00	\$10,101,297.41
4 Total			\$13,770,214.62	\$0.00	\$13,770,214.62
5 - NUTRITION	7XXX	Ancillary Services	\$2,649,100.00	(\$50,000.00)	\$2,599,100.00
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
5 Total			\$2,649,100.00	\$0.00	\$2,649,100.00
6 - AFTERSCHOOL	7XXX	Ancillary Services	\$779,868.00	(\$45,335.00)	\$734,533.00
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	\$0.00	\$45,335.00	\$45,335.00
6 Total			\$779,868.00	\$0.00	\$779,868.00
8 - SPECIAL REVENUE	5XXX	Instructional Services	\$2,973,679.30	\$164,572.40	\$3,138,251.70
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	\$988,060.29	(\$164,572.40)	\$823,487.89
	7XXX	Ancillary Services	\$2,750.00	\$0.00	\$2,750.00
8 Total			\$3,964,489.59	\$0.00	\$3,964,489.59
9 - SCHOLARSHIPS	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9 Total			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total			\$77,640,131.54	\$412,745.68	\$78,052,877.22

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 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. In addition, student access to social media platforms is prohibited, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes.

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.

- 1-2. 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.
- 2-3. 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.
- 3-4. Users must follow any software, application, or subscription services terms and conditions of use.
- 4-5. 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.
- 5-6. Users must not circumvent fire walls. The use of anonymous proxies to circumvent content filtering is prohibited.

6.7. Users may not install or use any Internet-based file sharing program designed to facilitate sharing of copyrighted material.

7.8. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).

8.9. 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.

9.10. 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.

10.11. 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.

- ~~11.12.~~ 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, data, or information.
- ~~12.13.~~ 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.
- ~~13.14.~~ Users may not read, alter, change, block, execute, or delete files or communications belonging to another user without the owner’s express prior permission.
- ~~14.15.~~ 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.
- ~~15.16.~~ 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.
- ~~16.17.~~ It is the user’s responsibility to back up data and other important files.
- ~~17.18.~~ Employees shall make reasonable efforts to supervise students’ use of the Internet during instructional time.
- ~~18.19.~~ 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.
- ~~19.20.~~ 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.
- ~~20.21.~~ 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 age-inappropriate or harmful to minors, including violence, nudity, or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose as well as websites, web applications, or software that do not protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of a student's personal information. 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 filespace; 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—47(70), -102.10, -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;
August 11, 2025; DATE

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

A. INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) to: (a) prevent user access via its technological resources to, or transmission of, inappropriate material on the Internet or through electronic mail or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access to the Internet and devices or programs connected to or accessible through the Internet; (c) prevent other unlawful online activity; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (e) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act.

B. DEFINITIONS**1. Technology Protection Measure**

The term “technology protection measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors.

2. Harmful to Minors

The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

- a. taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
- b. depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- c. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

3. Child Pornography

The term “child pornography” means any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video picture or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where:

- a. the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct;

- b. such visual depiction is a digital image, computer image or computer-generated image that is, or is indistinguishable from, that of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
- c. such visual depiction has been created, adapted or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

4. Sexual Act; Sexual Contact

The terms “sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

5. Minor

For purposes of this policy, the term “minor” means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

C. ACCESS TO INAPPROPRIATE MATERIAL

To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) will be used to block or filter access to inappropriate information on the Internet and World Wide Web. Specifically, blocking will be applied to audio and visual depictions deemed obscene or to be child pornography or harmful to minors as well as to websites or web applications that do not protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of students’ personal information. Student access to other materials that are inappropriate to minors will also be restricted. The board has determined that audio or visual materials that depict violence, nudity or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose are inappropriate for minors. The superintendent, in conjunction with a school media and technology ~~and media~~ advisory committee (see policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials), shall make a determination regarding what other matter or materials are inappropriate for minors. School system personnel may not restrict Internet access to ideas, perspectives or viewpoints if the restriction is motivated solely by disapproval of the viewpoints involved.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled during use by an adult for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

D. INAPPROPRIATE NETWORK USAGE

All users of school system technological resources are expected to comply with the requirements established in policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use. In particular, users are prohibited from: (a) attempting to gain unauthorized access, including “hacking” and engaging in other similar unlawful activities; and (b) engaging in the unauthorized disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identifying information regarding minors.

E. EDUCATION, SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

To the extent practical, steps will be taken to ~~promote~~protect the safety and security of users of the school system's online computer network, especially when they are using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communications. It is the responsibility of all school personnel to educate, supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures are the responsibility of the technology director or designated representatives.

The technology director or designated representatives shall provide age-appropriate training for students who use the school system's Internet services. The training provided will be designed to promote the school system's commitment to educating students in digital literacy and citizenship, including:

1. the standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use;
2. student safety with regard to safety on the Internet, appropriate behavior while online, including behavior on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response; and
3. compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Following receipt of this training, the student must acknowledge that he or she received the training, understood it and will follow the provisions of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use.

The superintendent shall develop any regulations needed to implement this policy and shall submit any certifications necessary to demonstrate compliance with this policy.

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. 254(h); Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. 254(l); Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, 47, U.S.C. 254(h); G.S. 115C-47(70); -102.10

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Technology in the Educational Program (policy 3220), Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Use of Equipment, Materials and Supplies (policy 6520), Network Security (policy 6524)

Adopted: November 10, 2014

| Revised: DATE

Replaces: Policy 4.02.25, Information Security Awareness

Consistent with policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, and in an effort to further the school system's objectives, the Watauga County Board of Education (the "board") encourages the use of the Internet as a means of providing accessible, accurate, and timely information for employees, students, parents, and others in the larger community. The Internet affords the school system the opportunity to communicate with its communities by posting pertinent system and school information online. The school system has established its system website online at www.wataugaschools.org and this is the only official website of the school system. In addition to this website, individual schools and departments may create system-related school websites. This policy provides the standards that must be followed for development of all system-related websites. Failure to comply with this policy may result in the removal of a web page or website from the Internet.

A. SYSTEM-RELATED WEBSITE

A "system-related website" is any Internet website that is established in one of the following ways:

1. by school system employees or students on behalf of the system;
2. by any school within the system;
3. by any school-sponsored club or organization within the system; or
4. by students as part of an educational assignment.

Only those websites that are created pursuant to this policy are considered system-related websites. The board does not endorse and is not responsible for websites created by employees, students, or others outside of the standards and guidelines of this policy. Students or employees who create personal websites that result in a substantial and material disruption to the school environment may be subject to disciplinary action.

B. STANDARDS FOR WEB PAGE DEVELOPMENT

1. Non-Public or Closed Forums for Expression

All system-related websites are "non-public" or "closed" forums for expression. This means that the system has control over information on such websites and is not required to allow students, teachers, or others to place material on system-related websites. The purpose of system-related websites is to disseminate curriculum-related information; to present the public with information about the system, its schools, and its programs; and to provide the community with each school or department's mission, contact information, activities, organizational format, and instructional program. System-related websites are analogous to

newsletters from the administration or the individual school. System-related websites are not analogous to a student newspaper or a non-school publication.

2. Administration and Editorial Control

All employees responsible for creating, developing, maintaining, editing, or approving a system-related website shall act legally, responsibly, and ethically in providing educational resources and information to support the mission and curriculum of the school system. Such persons shall abide by the generally accepted rules of website etiquette, board policy, and regulations established by the superintendent.

a. Superintendent Final Authority

The superintendent or designee may delegate authority to place information on a system-related website; however, the superintendent has the final authority to approve or disapprove any information in whatever form on any such system-related websites.

b. School System Official Website

The superintendent or designee has editorial control and responsibility for the content of the school system official website. The superintendent shall appoint a staff member to serve as the web manager/editor of the system website.

c. Individual School Websites

Each school will be provided with the resources and support to publish its own website. All system-related websites will be housed on the system web server or designated external host. Each principal has editorial control and responsibility for the content of his or her individual school's official website, subject to review of the superintendent or designee. The principal may appoint a staff member to serve as the web manager of the school's website and a website committee to advise the web manager and principal regarding the content of the school's website. Individual school websites must comply with the additional guidelines provided below.

d. Teacher and Student Websites

Each teacher has editorial control over and responsibility for the content of his or her official website and for the content of his or her students' authorized websites, subject to review by the principal, the superintendent, and the board. With the knowledge and written consent of a student's parent or guardian, a teacher may allow a student to create a website within or linked from a school's or teacher's website only for the following

instructional purposes: (1) to teach a student how to create or maintain a website or (2) to facilitate a student's work on school assignments or research projects. No student pages may be posted or made accessible to the general public until approved by the principal or designee.

e. Personal Websites

The school system is not responsible for personal websites or web pages created or maintained by members of the board of education, students, employees, parents, groups, or organizations. Personal websites or web pages are not considered system-related websites or web pages and are not covered by the provisions of this policy. (For further information regarding personal websites, see policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media, and policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use.)

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

3. Website Appearance and Evaluation

Web page content must be kept current and be maintained regularly. All system-related websites must include the name of the web page author, the date produced or revised, and the e-mail address of the author. The superintendent or designee (for the official system website) and the principal or designee (for individual school websites) must review, proof, and evaluate all system-related websites on at least a quarterly basis.

4. Copyright Laws

No information or graphics may be posted on websites in violation of any copyright laws or policy 3230/7330, Copyright Compliance. Copyright permission must be obtained for the use of any copyrighted material unless use is permitted as "fair use" under federal law. The superintendent or designee and each principal or designee is responsible for maintaining copies of permission granted for the use of copyrighted material.

5. Links

a. Internal Links

Each page of a system-related website must include a reference and hyperlink to the school system official website home page. In addition, all system-related websites must include a link to this policy and to policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use.

b. External Links

The superintendent and designee have editorial control over and responsibility for the linking of a system-related website to other sites on the Internet that are appropriate to the mission of the school system. Links to external sites (including externally hosted teacher classroom sites) must be approved by the principal or designee and are subject to written guidelines approved by the superintendent or designee. If required, web managers must obtain permission from external websites before links are established from any system-related website to external websites. To the extent possible, school personnel shall determine the extent to which a secondary site is linked to other sites on the Internet and whether such sites are appropriate for access through the school system websites. Web managers shall periodically check external links for accuracy and appropriateness of content. School employees must report any inappropriate links to the web manager.

Since the school system cannot control the content of other sites on the Internet and their linkages, the following disclaimer statement must be inserted in a prominent position on the official system website, on each school's web page and on other system-related websites that contain links to other websites or web pages that are not system-related websites:

The school system retains control over what links will be placed on system-related websites; however, the linked sites themselves are not under the control of the school system, its agents, or its employees. The school system is not responsible for the contents of any linked site, any link contained in a linked site, or any changes or updates to such sites. The school system provides links as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement of the site by the school system. The school system reserves the right to remove or restrict any links.

c. Links to Personal Pages

School websites or web pages may contain links to personal web pages of students or employees or lists of personal web pages only when such pages are purely for instructional use, and subject to written guidelines approved by the principal and/or the superintendent or designee.

6. Behavior Standards

When using the Internet, employees and students are responsible for understanding and complying with board policies and administrative regulations, including policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use; student behavior policies in the

4300 series; and policy 7300, Staff Responsibilities.

7. Accessibility of Website and Web Content

The web manager/editor, in consultation with the technology director, shall ensure that the school system website and web content meet required standards to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.

C. GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL WEBSITES

Each school may promote itself by publishing an official school web page on the Internet only via the official school system website. In addition to the standards above, the following standards apply to individual school websites.

1. The content of school web pages must be approved by the school principal prior to uploading.
2. The safety of students and employees must be considered when constructing school web pages. To protect the safety of students and employees, the following precautions must be taken:
 - a. home addresses or telephone numbers will not be listed;
 - b. student e-mail addresses will not be listed;
 - c. photographs of students and student work will be used only with appropriate parental permission and/or as approved for release as directory information under policy 4700, Student Records, and will include only the student's name, class or grade level, and information directly related to the photograph or student work, such as awards given or the activity or project depicted.

The principal or designee is responsible for maintaining records of permission granted for the release of information. The principal should implement other safety precautions, as necessary, to be followed when constructing web pages.

3. To protect a student's rights in his or her intellectual property, if a school or teacher publishes a student's work, a disclaimer should be provided indicating the terms of redistribution or reuse.
4. Schools must provide contact information and other general information about the school on the school website, including the school's name, phone number, fax number, grade levels, and address, the principal's name, and the e-mail addresses of the school administrative team.
5. Graphics used on school websites must be appropriate to the school and should be

of a size that will download quickly into a web browser.

6. Schools must keep information presented on their school's web page current, accurate, and grammatically correct.
7. The principal or designee must approve all revisions and additions to the school website.
8. Failure to comply with these guidelines or the standards of this policy, as determined by the superintendent or designee, may result in the removal of a school's web page from the Internet.

D. DISTRICT DISCLAIMER

The disclaimer below shall appear on all system and school web sites. The disclaimer should be listed as a link on the district web site and on all school sites. The text of the link shall say "Terms of Use."

Terms of Use

Acceptance of terms

The following are terms of a legal agreement between you and Watauga County School System ("WCS"). By accessing, browsing, and/or using this site ("Site"), you acknowledge that you have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these terms and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations. If you do not agree to these terms, do not use this site.

Limitation of Liability

While WCS uses reasonable efforts to include accurate and up-to-date information on this web site, WCS makes no warranties or representations as to its accuracy. WCS assumes no liability or responsibility for any typographical or other errors or omissions in any content on this site. Because of the unpredictable nature of the Internet, WCS cannot be responsible for the content of pages not directly connected to this web site.

Copyright

All materials published on district and school web sites are the property of WCS, or the author, and are protected by copyright. WCS cannot act as an agent for the authors of specific materials. Mirroring, or duplicating, any content on WCS web pages or sites on other servers is not permitted.

Privacy

Watauga County Schools adheres to all local, state, and federal laws and guidelines pertaining to students' right to privacy. No personally identifiable student or employee information will be shared with any outside persons, groups, or organizations without specific written permission from the person(s) involved.

Legal References: U.S. Const. Amend. I; Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12131 *et seq.*, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2522; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 705(20), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; 17 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.*; G.S. 115C-325(e) (applicable to career status teachers), -325.4 (applicable to non-career status teachers); 168A-7

Cross References: Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Technology in the Educational Program (policy 3220), Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Student Records (policy 4700), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use of Social Media (policy 7335), Personnel Files (policy 7820)

Other Resources: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1, Level AA, available at <https://perma.cc/UB8A-GG2F>

Adopted: June 8, 2015

Replaces: Policy 4.02.60, Publication of Materials on the Internet

Revised: January 15, 2018; August 12, 2020 (Legal references only); April 15, 2025; DATE

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes that concussions and other head injuries may be serious and potentially life threatening and that such injuries may result in serious consequences later in life if managed improperly. The board is committed to practices that reduce the potential for short-term or long-term effects from such injuries. In support of this commitment, the board directs school employees to comply with the concussion safety rules for interscholastic athletic competition adopted by the State Board of Education as required by G.S. 115C-407.57 and initially established in the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act of 2011. The superintendent or designee shall develop plans consistent with state requirements and shall implement and monitor compliance with this policy. The superintendent is authorized to investigate the use of baseline testing for student-athletes and require that student-athletes undergo such testing prior to their participation in any interscholastic athletic competition.

A. DEFINITION OF CONCUSSION

A concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not result in a loss of consciousness.

B. CONCUSSION EDUCATION VIDEO FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES

All high school student-athletes and parents of high school student-athletes must view the CrashCourse concussion education video prior to each sport season.

C. SCHOOL HEAD INJURY INFORMATION SHEET

Each year, all coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers, student-athletes, and parents of student-athletes must be provided with a concussion and head injury information sheet that meets the requirements of the State Board. Before any student, school employee, volunteer, or first responder will be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or competitions, he or she must sign the head injury information sheet and return it to the coach. Parents also must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before their children may participate in any interscholastic athletic activity. The principal of each school shall ensure that a complete and accurate record of the returned signed sheets is maintained in accordance with law and State Board policy.

D. REMOVAL FROM AND RETURN TO PLAY

Any student-athlete who is exhibiting signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion must be removed from athletic activity immediately. Further, the student-athlete must not be allowed to return to play or practice that day or on any subsequent day until he or she has been evaluated and has received written clearance for participation that complies with the requirements of G.S. 115C-407.57 and any other applicable law or State Board policy or rule.

E. RETURN TO LEARNING

The superintendent or designee shall develop a plan that meets all the requirements of the State Board of Education for addressing the needs of students in grades pre-K through 12 who suffer concussions. The superintendent or designee shall also arrange for information and professional development to be provided annually to all teachers and other school personnel on return-to-learn issues and other concerns related to concussion and brain injuries. Parents and students must be offered the opportunity annually to provide information related to any head injury or concussion the student may have incurred during the past year on the health history and emergency medical information update form.

F. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

Each principal or designee shall develop a venue-specific emergency action plan to respond to serious medical injuries and acute medical conditions in which the condition of the injured student may deteriorate rapidly. All such plans must include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available emergency equipment, and a plan for emergency transport. The plans must be (1) in writing, (2) reviewed by an athletic trainer who is licensed in North Carolina, (3) approved by the principal if developed by a designee, (4) distributed, posted, reviewed, and rehearsed in accordance with G.S. 115C-407.58, and (5) compliant with any other requirements of state law and State Board policy or rules.

G. ATHLETIC TRAINERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Each high school principal shall designate at least one licensed athletic trainer or first responder who meets the requirements of state law and State Board of Education policy. The principal shall monitor each athletic trainer's or first responder's compliance with the duties assigned to the position by the State Board and any additional duties assigned by the superintendent or designee, including, but not limited to, attendance at football games and practices and wrestling matches and tournaments and compliance with all applicable training and certification requirements.

To the extent funding and resources are available, the superintendent shall work toward having a licensed athletic trainer or first responder available for all school practices and games of all high school and middle school sports.

H. RECORD KEEPING

The superintendent shall require each principal to maintain complete and accurate records of actions taken in his or her school to comply with this policy and applicable legal authority. Records shall include accounts of any education or training as may be required by law or State Board of Education policy or rules.

The superintendent's annual report to the board on compliance with laws and policies related to student wellness shall include a report on the system's compliance with laws and policies related to concussions and head injuries. (See subsection F.4 of policy 6140, Student Wellness.)

Legal References: G.S. 90 art 34; 115C-12(23), 407.55, -407.57, -407.58, -407.70; S.L. 2011-147; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0205, .0206; State Board of Education Policies ATHL-000, ATHL-003, SHLT-001; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, available at <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook>

Cross References: Student Wellness (policy 6140)

Other Resources: Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related TBI Research Center at UNC website <https://gfellerwallerlaw.unc.edu/>; *Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Study of Sports Injuries at Middle School and High School Levels*, N.C. Department of Public Instruction (2011), available at <https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewDocSiteFile/16567>

Adopted: November 10, 2014

Revised: January 28, 2016; August 14, 2017; January 13, 2020 (Legal references only); October 5, 2020; June 28, 2021 (Legal references only); December 12, 2022 (Legal references only); July 11, 2024; DATE

TECHNOLOGY IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Policy Code:

3220

In alliance with the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan, the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) is committed to establishing and supporting effective digital teaching and learning practices supported by contemporary information and communications technology systems to foster globally competitive students prepared for modern life. The board recognizes the benefits of digital and technology-enabled and -enhanced teaching and learning resources that provide the ability to make data more accessible, personalize learning, easily customize curriculum, provide access to current information, and enable access to quality materials at a lower cost than traditional materials. To that end, the board supports classroom digital and technology-enabled and -enhanced teaching and learning resources that are aligned with the current statewide instructional standards. In addition, to the extent funding permits, the board will endeavor to ensure that all students have access to personal digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning devices to foster the skills necessary for future-ready learners. The superintendent may establish relationships with businesses and seek grants and other funding sources in an effort to acquire additional technological resources for the educational program and to support continuous out-of-school Internet access for students.

A. INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CURRICULUM

The board expects that information and communications technologies will be integrated seamlessly across the curriculum and used to support increased student achievement, instructional innovation, and to prepare students to be successful in college, in careers, and as globally engaged, productive citizens. The curriculum committee should provide suggestions in the curriculum guides referenced in policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides, for integrating technological resources (as defined in Section A below) into the educational program. School administrators and teachers are encouraged to develop additional strategies for integrating technological resources across the curriculum and utilizing the power of technology to personalize learning and improve learning outcomes while making more efficient use of resources. The strategies should be included in the school improvement plan if they require the transfer of funds or otherwise relate to any components of the school improvement plan.

The superintendent shall oversee development of the school system’s digital teaching and learning vision as part of the school system’s strategic plan and a yearly action plan that aligns to the vision. The development and ongoing review of the vision and the action plan will include various stakeholders such as curriculum leaders, teachers, administrators, students, parents, and representatives from technology services, instructional technology, finance, and other departments as required. The action plan will include adequate data privacy protections to secure student data and will take into account the level of out-of-school Internet access for students.

~~The superintendent may establish relationships with businesses and seek grants and other funding sources in an effort to acquire additional technological resources for the educational program and to support continuous out-of-school Internet access for students.~~

A.B. SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Technological resources are information and communications technologies including, but not limited to, the following: (1) hardware, including both fixed and mobile technologies and devices such as desktop computers, laptops, netbooks, tablets, e-readers, smartphones, and gaming devices; (2) software, including cloud-based and web-based applications, programs, and platforms; (3) network and telecommunications systems and services; (4) Internet access; (5) multimedia equipped classrooms; (6) computer classrooms and laboratories; and (7) other existing or emerging mobile communications systems. All technological resources must be purchased and used in a manner consistent with applicable law and board policy, including laws and policies related to copyright, public records, bidding, and other purchase requirements, accessibility for students with disabilities, staff duties, and standards for student behavior. Before acquiring a technological resource, school system officials must evaluate the costs, flexibility, and life cycle associated with the resource using any State Board of Education rules adopted in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.10.

Technological resources also must meet or exceed the following standards before they may be considered for implementation.

1. Technological resources must support the current statewide instructional standards or the programs of the school system.
2. Technological resources must support the current use of learning and instructional management technologies in the school.
3. Technological resources must be compatible with the condition of the network and other infrastructure resources. The technology director shall set minimum standards for technological resources that are purchased or donated. Upgrading, hardware conditions, and similar requirements must be maintained to the highest standards.
4. There must be sufficient staff to operate and maintain the technological equipment, programs, and systems.
5. There must be adequate funds budgeted to implement and support the technological resources and to train instructional staff to use the resources to improve educational outcomes.

Procurement of technological resources should be done in collaboration with teachers and technical support staff, as appropriate. Whenever possible, a pilot period to test the resource should occur prior to full purchase.

B.C. DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO SCHOOLS

The superintendent shall oversee the development of the school system's technology deployment and refresh plan. The plan will be designed to ensure organized, effective, efficient, and sustainable means of deploying and maintaining technology resources and will establish appropriate refresh/replacement cycles. The superintendent shall develop procedures that outline the strategy of the technology deployment and refresh plan.

C.D. BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT) INITIATIVE

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and develop a plan to allow staff and students the option to use their personal electronic devices in place of or along with their school system assigned devices. The plan should address, at a minimum, the instructional use of personal devices, compatibility requirements, access limitations or requirements, content filtering, security, and other issues as recommended by the technology director. The plan should assign personal responsibility to the user for repair and replacement of damaged or stolen devices and for any data or other charges arising from use of a personal device. The plan should require a written agreement for the use of personal technology devices from each student and staff member who wishes to participate in the BYOT initiative. The plan should ensure that students who are unable to bring in outside technology will be able to access and utilize school equipment so that no student is excluded from instruction due to lack of access to technology.

D.E. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE TOOLS

The superintendent is authorized to permit instructional personnel to incorporate email, social networking sites, blogs, wikis, video sharing sites, podcasts, video conferencing, online collaborations, instant messaging, texting, virtual learning environments, and/or other forms of direct electronic communications or Web 2.0 applications for educational purposes to the extent the superintendent deems appropriate and in accordance with policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media. The superintendent shall establish parameters and rules for use of these tools and shall require instruction for students in how to use such tools in a safe, effective, and appropriate way. Instructional personnel shall make all reasonable attempts to monitor student online activity and shall otherwise comply with the requirements of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, when using these tools.

E.F. GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is an artificial intelligence tool that responds to a user's input or prompt by generating new text, images, audio, video, or content based on what it learned in its training data set. The board encourages the use of generative AI by school system employees and students to expand their skills and capabilities and to prepare students for a future AI-enhanced world. The superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain guidelines that detail the acceptable and responsible use of generative AI by school system employees and students. See also policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology

Responsible Use.

All school system employees and students should be AI literate, that is, have an understanding of basic AI principles and applications, the skills to recognize when AI is employed, and awareness of its limits. The superintendent or designee shall develop a comprehensive AI literacy training strategy that involves training all employees and students in the effective, ethical, and safe use of generative AI tools. The training should equip employees with the necessary knowledge to effectively employ generative AI in their work while ensuring its safe and responsible integration into classroom instruction.

F.G. TECHNOLOGY-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The superintendent shall plan a program of professional development for digital teaching and learning that prepares administrators, teachers, coaches, school library media coordinators, and technical support staff to utilize digital tools and resources in accordance with the N.C. Digital Learning Competencies for Teachers and Administrators. Professional development shall emphasize technology integration and continuous improvement, including the use of ongoing technology-integrated online-learning activities throughout the course of study and the provision of personalized learning. Professional development shall also address the ethical, legal, and practical issues related to social networking and mobile devices in the classroom and other topics deemed necessary by the superintendent or technology director. In addition, professional development shall involve training on generative AI, including its impact, effective use, capabilities, limitations, concerns, and responsible use. Staff will be trained both to use generative AI professionally and to guide students to effectively and ethically use generative AI as a learning partner. To the extent possible, job-specific professional development opportunities should be made available, as well as professional development that is personalized to meet the needs of individual staff.

School improvement teams should identify any staff development appropriations for technology-related professional development in their school improvement plans. The superintendent and technology director should assist schools in coordinating staff development needs as provided in policy 7800, Professional and Staff Development.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47(70), -102.10, -522, -528; 143B-1341; State Board of Education Policy SBOP-018

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 7800), Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Internet Safety (policy 3226/4205), Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Integrity and Civility (policy 4310), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Network Security (policy 6524), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use of Social Media (policy 7335), Gifts and Bequests (policy 8220)

Other Resources: North Carolina Digital Teaching and Learning Competencies for Teachers and Administrators, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/digital-teaching-and-learning/digital-teaching-learning-standards#digital-learning-competencies-for-educators>; The North Carolina Digital Learning Plan (2022), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/digital-teaching-and-learning/digital-learning-initiative#:~:text=The%20North%20Carolina%20Digital%20Learning%20Plan%20describes%20the,Learning%20Initiative.%202022%20North%20Carolina%20Digital%20Learning%20Plan> North Carolina Generative AI Implementation Recommendations and Considerations for PK-13 Public Schools, available at https://go.ncdpi.gov/AI_Guidelines

Adopted: August 3, 2015

Revised: August 14, 2017 (Legal references only); May 21, 2018; May 8, 2023; July 11, 2024;
DATE

Replaces: Board policy 4.01.35, Media Technology and Advisory Committee

ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Policy Code: 6310

The superintendent shall establish a student transportation services program consistent with the goals of the Watauga County Board of Education (the "board") established in policy 6300, Goals of Student Transportation Services, and with the requirements set forth in state and federal laws and regulations and board policies in the 6300 series. School personnel, volunteers, and private carriers are expected to be familiar with all duties imposed by law, board policy, or the superintendent.

The superintendent or designee shall develop all rules and regulations necessary to implement the board policies in the 6300 series. Specific duties related to providing student transportation services should~~shall~~ be included in appropriate job descriptions.

The superintendent shall ensure that a copy of all job descriptions, rules, regulations, and policies related to the safe, orderly, and efficient operation of the student transportation services program are posted on the school system website as required by the State Board of Education.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-241, -242, -244 to -246, -248; 16 N.C.A.C. 6B .0103

Cross References: ~~Goals of Student Transportation Services policies (policy 6300 series)~~

Adopted: April 11, 2016

Revised: DATE

RETIREMENT

Policy Code:

7910

Retirement will be in accordance with the Teacher's and State Employees' Retirement System of North Carolina. No employee will be required to retire at any age.

Any employee who plans to retire must notify the human resources department at least 120 days prior to his or her intended retirement date, except in cases in which health or other extenuating circumstances make shorter notice necessary.

For employees who became retirement system members on or after January 1, 2015, and if an employee's retirement allowance is subject to an adjustment pursuant to the contribution-based benefit cap for retirement under G.S. 135-5(a3), the board will not be responsible for restoring the employee's retirement allowance to the pre-cap amount unless the board has specified in writing in the employee's contract that the board will restore the employee's retirement allowance.

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. 621-634; G.S. 135, art. 1; G.S. 135-4 and -5

Adopted: January 11, 2016

Revised: DATE

CLASSIFIED STAFF BUS DRIVING REQUIREMENTS

Policy Code: **6301**

The board acknowledges that providing school bus services for students is a fundamental responsibility of a public-school system. This policy aims to ensure that the Watauga County Schools can fulfill this responsibility even where there is a shortage of personnel specifically hired as bus drivers. Furthermore, the Board recognizes that requiring licensed, certified staff to drive buses on a routine basis negatively impacts the ability of the system to address educational and administration requirements critical to providing students with a sound basic education. Any failure to comply with this policy shall subject an employee to termination pursuant to Policy 7940.

All full-time, school site-based required classified staff are obligated to drive a school bus as part of their employment, unless specifically exempted within this policy. Required staff members must obtain and maintain a CDL Driver's License and meet any local certification requirements as a condition of employment. Employees who do not possess the required CDL must enroll in the next available bus driver training class and complete all necessary requirements to obtain the license. Additionally, such employees who, as required, seek their CDL will have two attempts to successfully complete the required coursework and behind-the-wheel training. -

All school site-based classified staff, with the exception of:

- Grandfather Provision: As of June 30, 2025, full-time, site-based classified personnel who previously fulfilled the dual employment driving obligation for fifteen years with Watauga County Schools will have the option to either continue driving or be excused from these responsibilities.
- school secretaries
- tutors
- cafeteria managers
- extended learning center staff
- positions designated as hard to fill by the Superintendent or designee based upon qualified applicant pools and job market conditions within the previous 12 to 24 months
- individuals aged 65 or over
- Employees requiring reasonable accommodations for a disability

Required school site-based classified staff that have their CDL License revoked or fail to have it renewed after the school year begins will be given sixty (60) calendar days to obtain a clear license or agree to a plan to obtain a clear license with the Director of Human Resources.

In the event that a required school site-based classified employee becomes temporarily or permanently incapable of driving a school bus with reasonable accommodation due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed physician, the employee will be excused from driving responsibilities unless such action would pose an undue burden to the Watauga County Schools.

“Undue burden” shall be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, the Board recognizes

that requiring licensed, certified staff to drive buses regularly hinders the system's ability to meet educational and administrative needs critical for providing students with a sound basic education. In addition, when a sufficient number of full-time drivers are not available, the provision of a substitute bus driver for an indefinite period of time is not reasonable. Therefore, the existence of a bus driver shortage by which the system is unable to hire a sufficient number of full-time bus drivers to meet the system's transportation obligations creates an undue burden.

"Reasonable accommodation" under this policy does not include providing a substitute bus driver for an indefinite period of time. "Undue burden" under this policy includes the existence of a bus driver shortage by which the system is unable to hire a sufficient number of full-time bus drivers, and as a result, licensed school staff are required to drive buses in order to meet the system's transportation obligations to students. The Board recognizes that routine bus driving is not an appropriate duty for licensed staff who have other significant job responsibilities pursuant to law and policy.

The "Physician Certification of Disability" form is to be submitted to the Human Resources Director in writing from a licensed physician stating: a) The nature, severity and duration of any impairment preventing the employee from driving a bus and b) A description of any and all measures suggested as reasonable accommodations to enable the interactive process. The Human Resources Director may request a second physician evaluation at the Board of Education's expense. All claims of disability will be reviewed on an annual basis or more frequently at the discretion of the Human Resources Director. Anyone seeking an exemption who fails to submit the Physician Certification of Disability will be denied.

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

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

Adopted: March 14, 2005 as policy 3.02.35

Revised: December 10, 2007; April 11, 2016; April 15, 2025