

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) affirms the principle that every student should be given an equal opportunity for a sound basic education. Furthermore, no student, on the basis of any characteristic protected by federal or state law, will be excluded from participating in the programs and services of the school system or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity conducted by the school system. The school system will treat its students without discrimination in accordance with applicable law with regard to course offerings, athletics, counseling, employment assistance, extracurricular activities, and educational resources.

Any student, or parent or guardian who feels that this policy has been misinterpreted, misapplied or violated may file a complaint in accordance with policy 4020/7230, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law; policy 4030/7235, Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex; policy 4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities; or policy 4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, as appropriate.

The superintendent and all school officials shall follow the *North Carolina Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities* to provide services for children with disabilities and address any issues that may arise concerning the provision of services.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 705(20), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000c *et seq.*; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 100; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 106; G.S. 115C-1, -367, -375.5, -407.15 through -407.18, -407.30; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997); *Parent Rights & Responsibilities in Special Education* (N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/resources-for-families-students#ParentsRightsAndResponsibilitiesinSpecialEducation-6016>;

North Carolina Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities at <http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities>

Cross References: Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (policy 4020/7230), Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex (policy 4030/7235), Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities (policy 4022/7331), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 4010), Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees (policy 4023/7233)

Adopted: July 14, 2014, replaces policy 5.05.50

Revised: September 12, 2016, replaces policy 4.05.50; March 8, 2021; June 22, 2026