

Western Harnett High School

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Parent/Student Handbook 2025-2026

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This handbook will provide vital information about some of the procedures, policies and rules that will help our school run smoothly for the 2025-2026 school year. Please understand that **this handbook is not all-inclusive and may not cover everything**. Please familiarize yourself with its content and refer to it should questions arise.

<i>Colors:</i>	Red, White, and Royal Blue
<i>Mascot:</i>	Eagle
<i>Motto:</i>	Expectation of Excellence
<i>School Website:</i>	https://www.harnett.k12.nc.us/o/whh

Harnett County Board of Education Members

Mr. Joey Powell, Chair
Mr. Brad Abate, Vice Chair
Mr. Don Godfrey
Ms. Sharon Gainey
Mr. John Hairr

Harnett County Schools Administration

Mr. Brooks Matthews, Superintendent
Mr. Chris Pearson, Assistant Superintendent – Auxiliary Services
Mrs. Brookie Ferguson, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Monica Thompson, Assistant Superintendent – Human Resources
Mr. Jermaine White, Assistant Superintendent – Student Support Services

Message from the Principal:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! I am very excited to be joining the Western Harnett High School family. Having come from Highland Middle School, I have had the privilege of working with many of our current high school students and families. I am so excited to continue to help our students achieve their academic and personal goals and success. Our entire staff is here to support and assist our students excel in all they do! In order to do this, we will hold our students and faculty to high standards. Failing is not an option and we will do everything we can to help our students graduate and grow into successful and productive adults.

-Britton Sullivan

Every Student Succeeds Act

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Harnett County Schools would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- a. Whether the student's teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- b. Whether the student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
- c. Whether the student's teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher;
- d. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teachers' and/or paraprofessional's qualification, please contact the school.

School Calendar 2025-2026

August 13	First Day of School	December 22	Start of winter break
September 1	Labor Day Holiday	January 5-6	Teacher Workdays
September 26	Teacher Workday	January 7	Second semester begins
October 17	Teacher Workday	January 19	MLK Jr. Holiday
November 10	Teacher Workday	February 16	Teacher Workday
November 11	Veterans' Day Holiday	March 13	Teacher Workday
November 26	Teacher Workday	April 3	Holiday
November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday	April 6 - 10	Spring Break
November 28	Holiday	May 22	Last Day of School

Dates of Report Cards

- 1st Grading Period: September 30
- 2nd Grading Period: November 12
- 3rd Grading Period: January 9
- 4th Grading Period: February 24
- 5th Grading Period: April 15
- 6th Grading Period: June 2

Cafeteria Meals

It is very exciting to report that all students in Harnett County Schools will receive free breakfast and lunch this school year. Adult meals will continue to cost \$1.75 for breakfast and \$4.00 for lunch. Adults may not charge accounts.

Transcripts

A complete high school transcript shall be issued to all students receiving either the Diploma of Graduation or the Certificate of Completion. The transcript shall provide the following information:

- All courses completed and grades earned;
- A record of school attendance for grades 9-12;
- Standardized Test Scores; and
- Immunization Records

Grading Period/Report Cards

Each grading period consists of 6 weeks. Report cards are sent electronically to Parents/Guardians using the email provided in Infinite Campus.

End-of-Course Testing and Other State-Mandated Tests

In response to legislation by the 1984 North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Board of Education began the process of developing End-of-Course (EOC) tests for high school courses required for admission by the University Of North Carolina System Of Higher Education. These tests, developed by North Carolina teachers, are reflective of the goals and objectives of the Standard Course of Study and provide information about each individual student's performance relative to that of other students in North Carolina. The final exams and EOC exams count for 25% of the semester grade. Students who do not take the EOC exam will not be eligible to attend summer school for that course. Note: Parents must alert the testing coordinator at least five (5) days prior to any EOC or non-EOC exam if a child will be absent. During the 2022-2023 school year, the following End-of-Course (EOC) exams will be administered during the regularly scheduled final exam period. The results will be used as the student's final exam grade.

- i. Math I
- ii. Math III
- iii. Biology
- iv. English II

Some Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses have a state-mandated post assessment that counts as the final exam for the course; others follow a performance-based or credentialing method of assessment in place of a state exam.

All 10th grade students will take the Pre-ACT test. All 11th grade students will take the ACT.

North Carolina Scholars Program

Students satisfactorily completing requirements as identified by the State Board of Education shall be named North Carolina Scholars. An appropriate seal issued by the State Board of Education in recognition of this achievement will be affixed to the diploma. The requirements to be recognized as a North Carolina Scholar are as follows:

North Carolina Scholars Program Course of Study: Requirements for all students:

Units per Program Area

4 English

4 Mathematics (Math 1*, Math 2, Math 3, and a higher level math course)

3 Science (a Physics or Chemistry course, a Biology course, and an Earth/Environmental Science course)

4 Social Studies

2 Language other than English (two credits of the same language)

1 Healthful Living

1 Career and Technical Education

1 Arts Education (Dance, Music, Theater Arts or Visual Arts)

Elective credits to include at least two second level or advanced courses (examples of electives include JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student)

There is a provision that only courses taken in grades 9-12 may be used to satisfy the N.C. Scholars Program. If a student takes one or more of the required courses in grade 8, he/she must also satisfy the units required by the program in grades 9-12 (i.e., Math 1 may be taken in grade 8, but the student must then take Math 2, Math 3, and two other advanced math courses in grades 9-12).

A student must have a 3.5 *unweighted* GPA at the end of his/her senior year to be a N.C. Scholar.

Scholastic Awards

Special awards for excellence in different subjects will be given to outstanding students. The specific awards will be identified by the different departments of the school. These awards will be presented at an awards assembly that will be held at the end of the school year.

Scholastic Honors

A. Beta Club

Students who possess qualities of leadership, scholarship, and character, and who have completed at least one semester at Western with an academic average of 4.0 weighted GPA or above will be eligible for membership in the Beta Club. An average of 3.75 weighted GPA must be maintained to remain a member in good standing. All bylaws pertaining to induction and membership of BETA will be upheld.

C. Principal's List

Students must have a 4.0 or higher average on each course taken.

D. Honor Roll

Students must have a 3.0 or higher average on each course taken.

E. Marshals

The top 10% of members of the junior class at the end of the first semester of the junior year will serve as marshals for graduation exercises.

Weighted Courses and Class Rank

- Grade point average and class rank will be calculated by a standard method by all public high schools in the state. All courses attempted in grades 9-12 will be used in computing averages and rank. These GPA's will be on a weighted grading scale.
- **Course Weighting Scale (*effective with Freshman Class of 2015-16*)**
 - Honors Courses = One-half (.5) quality point
 - Advanced Placement Course = One (1) quality point
 - Community College and Four-Year University and College Courses = One (1) quality point, in some cases some Community College courses will receive .5 quality points

All other courses in the curriculum are not weighted.

- Course content, pace and academic rigor of Advanced and Honors courses put high expectations on the student and surpass standards set by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Such courses demand a greater independence and responsibility.
- Course content and rigor of Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level as adopted by the College Board and are geared to enable students to pass the College Board Advanced Placement Examinations. Students taking these courses will be expected to take the tests. College credit and/or placements vary from college to college.
- All weighted courses are available and open to any student who is willing to devote the extra time and energy necessary to achieve success in these courses.

Grading Scale and Quality Points

- Calculations are based on a standardization of academic course levels, grading scales, and the weighting of course grades. Class rank is based on a weighted grade point average in which a single (1) quality point is added to passing grades earned in Advanced/ Honors courses and two (2) quality points are added to passing grades earned in Advanced Placement courses.
- Beginning in 2015-16, Harnett County Schools' students in grades 3-12 will be graded on a ten-point grading scale as follows:
 - 90-100% = A
 - 80-89% = B
 - 70-79% = C
 - 60-69% = D
 - <59 = F
- **Transcript:** Transcript grades and the corresponding number of quality points are shown below.
 - 90-100 = 4.0
 - 80-89 = 3.0
 - 70-79 = 2.0
 - 60-69 = 1.0
 - <59 = 0.0

MINIMUM UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AT ALL 16 CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Individual constituent institutions may require other courses in addition to the minimum requirements. "Course units" as defined in these requirements may include those high school-level courses taken and passed by an applicant after graduating from high school, as well as those taken while enrolled as a high school student.

EFFECTIVE SINCE FALL 2004

Six course units in language, including:

- Four units in English emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
- Two units of a language other than English.

Four course units of mathematics from the following list:

- Foundations of Math 1
- Math 1

- Math 2
- Math 3
- Math 4
- Honors Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics

Three course units in science, including:

- At least one unit in a life or **biological science** (for example, Biology)
- At least one unit in a **physical science** (for example, Physical Science, Chemistry, Physics), and
- At least one **laboratory course**

Four course units in social studies, including:

- One unit in World History
- One unit in American History
- One unit in Civic Literacy
- One unit in Economics and Personal Finance
- The University of North Carolina is composed of the following constituent institutions:

Appalachian State University
 East Carolina University
 Elizabeth City State University
 Fayetteville State University
 North Carolina A&T State University
 North Carolina Central University
 North Carolina School of the Arts
 North Carolina State University

UNC- Asheville
 UNC- Chapel Hill
 UNC- Charlotte
 UNC- Greensboro
 UNC- Pembroke
 UNC- Wilmington
 Winston-Salem University

NORTH CAROLINA and HARNETT COUNTY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Revised 2/15/2012

Content Area	For Ninth Graders Entering in 2009-10 and Later FUTURE READY CORE	For Ninth Graders Entering in 2012-13 and Later FUTURE READY CORE	For Ninth Graders Entering in 2000 and Later OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study
English	4 Credit English I, II, III, IV		4 Credit Occupational English I, II (including Eng II EOC), III, IV
Mathematics	4 Credits Math I, Math II, Math III and a 4th Math Course aligned with the student's post high school plans		3 Credits OCS Math I (Intro to Math) OCS Math II (OCS Alg I - Math A including Alg I EOC), and OCS Math III (Financial Mgmt)
Science	3 Credits A Physical Science course, Biology, Earth/Environmental Science		2 Credits OCS Life Sci I: Applied Science OCS Life Sci II: Biology (including Bio EOC)
Social Studies	3 Credits Civics and Economics, US History, and World History****	4 Credits Civic Literacy, American History, World History, Economics and Personal Finance	2 Credits OCS Social Studies (Gov/US Hist) OCS Social Studies II (Self-Advocacy/Problem Solving)
Second Language	4-year college admission requires minimum 2 credits of same language.		Not required.
Health and PE	1 Credit Health/Physical Education		
Electives or other requirements** * *Career/Tech *JROTC *Arts Education (Dance, Music,	11 Credits Required combination of electives as follows:	10 Credits Required combination of electives as follows:	12 Credits Occupational Prep I, II, III, IV** Elective credits/completion of IEP objectives/Career Portfolio required

Theater Arts, Visual Arts)	2 Elective credits of any combination from either: -Career and Technical Education (CTE) -Arts Education -World Language 4 Elective credits strongly recommended (four course concentration) from one of the following: -Career and Technical Education (CTE) -JROTC -Arts Education (e.g. dance, music, theater arts, visual arts) -Any other subject are (e.g. mathematics, science, social studies, English)	4 Credits Career and Technical Education (CTE) electives
Additional Requirements	*Local attendance requirements *Meeting CPR requirements *Successful completion of state-mandated assessments (Math I EOC, Biology EOC, and English II EOC, PLAN, ACT, Work Keys for CTE Completers, etc.) <u>including</u> students in the Occupational Course of Study. *Career Portfolio required for students in the Occupational Course of Study.	
Total	26 Credits plus any local requirements (NOTE: 28 Credits were required prior to June 2011)	
*Completion of 300 hours of school-based training, 240 hours of community based training, and 360 hours of paid employment **Examples of electives include JROTC and other courses that are of interest to the student ***A student who takes AP US History instead of taking American History I and American History II must also take an additional social studies course in order to meet the four credits requirement ****As much as possible, student schedules will be composed of two core classes and two electives each semester.		

Extracurricular Clubs and Activities

Beta	HOSA	Skills USA
FFA	SGA	FCCLA
NTHS	Drama	FBLA
Marching Band	Poetry	BOB

Athletics

Football	Volleyball	Soccer (Boys & Girls)	Cheerleading
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	Basketball (Boys & Girls)	Wrestling	Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
Baseball	Softball	Track (Boys & Girls)	Golf (Boys & Girls)

Athletic Eligibility

Before being allowed to participate in any varsity or junior varsity sport, a student must have a physical examination. The physical examination, athletic participation, insurance forms and drug contract may be obtained from the coach of each sport. These forms must be completed and given to the coach before the student athlete can participate in practice or games. In addition, each student athlete and parent/guardian must sign a sportsmanship pledge and return it to the coach.

- Students who owe fees or other debts to Western Harnett High School will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular sports/activities.
- To be eligible to participate in any sport a student must meet all of the eligibility requirements of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Included among these requirements are the following:
 - passing 75% of all classes enrolled. Senior Athletes who have FLEX would be required to pass all courses each semester
 - Be in attendance a minimum of 85% of the previous semester. ANY absences over 13 make you ineligible), not reaching age 19 on or before August 31 of the current year.
 - All appeals for attendance will be handled through the state, not at the local level.

365-Day Rule

Any student granted a voluntary reassignment from the school serving the attendance area in which the student resides shall not participate in athletic activities that come under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA)

and the State Board of Education for 75 days after the first approved transfer date; however, if it is later determined that athletic participation is a reason for the transfer request, the transfer may be revoked by the Superintendent.

Participation in Athletics during Alternative School Assignment

Students re-assigned to an alternative school setting (STAR Academy) will be considered ineligible to participate in extra-curricular school sponsored activities, including sports practice or play, until the student returns to a regular educational setting.

North Carolina Dropout / Driver's Licensing Legislation

The new legislation is directed to all North Carolina students under the age of 18 who are eligible for a driver's permit or license. This includes public school, federal school, home school, private school, and community college students.

NOTE: A student who does not meet the requirements for: 1) academic progress; 2) drops out of school; 3) charged with the possession or sale of alcohol or an illegal substance, the possession or use of a weapon or firearm or the physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel will either not be granted the Driving Eligibility Certificate or will lose his/her permit/license.

Students Who Are Exempt

Students who have attained a high school diploma, a GED, or adult high school diploma as issued by a community college are not affected by this legislation. Students over the age of eighteen (18) are not affected.

Dropouts

An eligible student who drops out of school will either not receive his/her Driving Eligibility Certificate or will lose his or her driver's permit or license.

Transfers

A student who is making adequate progress in school can transfer to a community college or a non-public school without any consequences. A student who is not making adequate progress (or drops out of school) and enrolls in a community college or non-public school cannot be granted a Driving Eligibility Certificate for a period of six months.

Academic Progress

A student must pass $\frac{3}{4}$ of his/her course work the previous semester. At the conclusion of the school year, the semester grades are used to determine eligibility. An exceptional child must be determined by his/her school based IEP team to be making adequate progress towards obtaining a high school diploma.

NOTE: This rating is not intended to apply to exceptional students who have the ability to obtain a high school diploma.

Checklist for Obtaining a Learner's Permit

- ✓ Driver Education Certificate
- ✓ Driver Eligibility Certificate from the school. Certificate issued by the school principal or designee only to parent or legal guardian. Adequate academic status must be maintained. During the first semester, the previous year's progress is used. After the first semester has ended, semester grades are used. A student must pass 70% of the course work the previous semester. Therefore, a student must have passed 3 out of 4 courses per semester. (Note: Certificate is good only for 30 days.)
- ✓ Birth date verification information. (A certificate or original birth certificate is needed to verify age.)
- ✓ Social Security Card. (No metal, plastic cards or reproductions accepted.)
- ✓ A parent or legal guardian must be present to sign the application.
- ✓ Pass a written, sign, and vision test.

Western Harnett High School Attendance Procedures

Attendance in school is central to educational achievement and school success. Attendance and participation in class are an integral part of the teaching-learning process, and thereby a part of the grade earned. Additionally, regular attendance develops patterns of behavior essential to success later in life, both personal and business. While there are times when students must be absent from school due to physical inability to attend, it must be understood that parents or legal guardians have the responsibility for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily. **Parents are encouraged to check attendance and grades regularly in the Parent Portal.**

Attendance General Guidelines

The principal shall adhere to all conditions of the North Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law, and shall notify parents or guardians of their responsibility under the same law. Students at any age who accumulate excessive absences may experience consequences ranging from extra make-up work to course failure. The principal has the right to excuse a pupil temporarily from attendance because of sickness or other unavoidable cause that does not constitute unlawful absence as defined by the State Board of Education. When a pattern of questionable absence develops, the school shall contact and advise the parent of the legal responsibility to keep the child in school. When it has been determined that a pupil has 10 accumulated unexcused absences, the school will notify the parent/guardian of possible prosecution through the district attorney's office. Students will be provided reasonable time to complete any makeup work due to an excused absence. Students who have unexcused absences will not be provided makeup work. Participation in the following activities shall not be counted as absences from either class or school. Students, however, shall complete assignments missed:

- Field trips sponsored by the school
- Athletic events requiring early dismissal from school
- Governor/legislative pages
- School-initiated and scheduled activities
- In-school suspension

In the event of an absence or tardy, it shall be the responsibility of the student to bring to the Attendance Office a note signed by the parent or guardian citing the reason for such absence or tardy. Additional documentation deemed necessary to verify an absence or tardiness is required for an absence to be waived. All absences for reasons such as educational visits, legal, medical, or military may require written proof. Examples of written proof include, but are not limited to, a receipt with name and valid date, a subpoena, or hospital discharge papers. **Appointment cards are not accepted as proof, but can be used to obtain an unexcused early dismissal.** All notes--parent, guardian, medical, legal documents, etc.--shall be presented within three (3) school days of student's return to school. Failure to comply will result in the absence or tardy being recorded as unexcused. The attendance office will not accept inclusive or "blanket notes" at the end of the six weeks. In order to be counted present in each class, a student must remain in class for one-half the class block. Attendance at WHHS will be counted in each class period.

Valid Excused Absences

- Illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school.
- Isolation ordered by the State Board of Health.
- Death in the immediate family
- Emergency medical or dental appointment or such an appointment that has been approved in advance by the principal.
- Participation as a party under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding.
- Observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student's parent(s) with prior approval from the principal.
- Participation in a valid educational opportunity such as travel with prior approval of the principal. If you are requesting this, please complete the following [request form](#). This must be completed at least two weeks prior to the absence date(s).

Exam Exemption

The following guidelines outline the criteria for students in grades 9-12 to qualify for exam exemptions in courses without a state-required or End-of-Course (EOC) assessment. These exemptions are contingent upon the student meeting the criteria below **before** the beginning of the exam window.

To be eligible for an exam exemption, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. **Grade Requirement:** The student must have an "A" (90%) or higher final course grade.
2. **Absence Limit:** The student may have no more than **5 absences total** in the course.

All absences, whether excused or unexcused, **will count equally** when determining eligibility for exam exemptions.

- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS): Under board policy, days assigned to out-of-school suspension (OSS) will be considered absences and count toward the 5-absence limit.
- School-Related Activities: Absences for approved school-related activities **do not** count against the 5-absence limit.

*When a student experiences a hardship causing the total absences to exceed 5 days, an exam exemption will be at the principal's discretion (i.e., medical emergency, family crisis, etc.). Students or parents/guardians must submit a written request to the principal for a waiver due to the hardship. The request must include supporting documentation for the absences. The principal will review the request and determine whether the absences qualify for a waiver.

Non-Exempt Assessments

- **State-Mandated Tests:** Exemption is not available for tests required by the state, including **End-of-Course (EOC) exams**, **College Career Promise (CCP) courses**, and **NCVPS exams**.
- **CTE Assessments:** Students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that include a **CTE state exam**, **CTE Credential**, or **CTE Performance-Based Measure (PBM)** as the Proof of Learning (POL) **are not** eligible for exam exemption.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) Exams:** Students taking **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses taught by a Harnett County Schools teacher may be exempt from the teacher-made exam if they meet the grade and attendance criteria. However, AP exams administered by the College Board are required for college credit and **are not eligible** for exemption.

Option to Take the Final Exam

Students who meet the eligibility criteria for exam exemption will have the **option to take the final exam** if they wish to improve their grade. If a student chooses to take the exam, the following grading practices will apply:

- **HCS Grading Practices:** The exam will count for 25% of the student's final grade in the course.

If a student chooses **not** to take the exam, the final grade will be calculated by averaging the three grading periods (report card grades) to determine the final grade for the course.

For students who have been granted an exemption, the final grade in Infinite Campus will be marked with an "EX" notation indicating the exam exemption.

Final Decision

The principal (consistent with GS 115C-288) will have the final authority to grant or deny exam exemptions based on the established criteria. If a student does not meet the exemption requirements, they will be required to take the exam for the course.

Important Notes

- This exemption applies only to courses that **do not** have a state-required or End-of-Course (EOC) assessment.
- All absences, whether lawful or unlawful, **count** toward the 5-absence limit.

Western Harnett Tardy Policy

Students must realize that tardiness disrupts the learning process for themselves, and others, and will not be tolerated. Tardiness will be cumulative during the semester. Any students not in the classroom once the bell rings will be considered tardy and appropriate consequences will be assigned. Failure to comply with consequences associated with the policy may result in out of school suspension. The administration may have tardy sweeps at any point and in-school suspension will be assigned as they see fit.

Excused tardies are accepted only when accompanied by a written note for reasons listed below:

- Personal illness
- Death in the immediate family
- Medical appointment as verified in writing by the physician or his/her designee
- Miscellaneous causes of an emergency nature approved by the principal, a staff assistant, or a medical authority
- Court summons
- Religious holiday

Tardiness due to traffic does not qualify as an excused tardy.

Consequences

First Block:

1st Offense & 2nd Offense: Warning

3rd Offense: one class period of ISS

4th Offense: two class period of ISS

5th Offense or more will result in a major discipline referral and parent conference.

Any tardies beyond may result in out of school suspension.

Second, Third, & Fourth Block:

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: one class period of ISS

3rd Offense: two class period of ISS

4th Offense or more will result in a major discipline referral and parent conference.

Any tardies beyond may result in out of school suspension.

Routine Procedures

Morning Arrival

- Regardless of method of transportation, once a student arrives on campus, he or she becomes the responsibility of the school and may not leave the school grounds without permission from the principal's office.
- Students should report to the cafeteria or commons upon entering the building at 7:00. The bell will ring at 7:15 to send students to class.
- **Students who come to school by car are to leave the car and come to the building immediately after arriving on campus. Students may not remain in their cars in the parking lot.**
- When the 7:20 bell rings, breakfast is over. Students will not be served after this unless they have arrived on a late bus.
- If a student arrives at school after the morning tardy bell has rung, he/she must sign in. Students should not report to class without signing into school unless they are on flex schedule.

Afternoon Departure

No student is to stay after school unless the student is taking part in an activity sponsored by a teacher who will have those students under direct supervision at all times. **Students who are not with a teacher or coach are not to be in the building or on the school grounds after 2:30.**

Early Dismissal Guidelines

- Early Dismissal: In order to leave school early, a student must report to the attendance office before 1st period with a signed parent note in order to receive an early dismissal slip.
- All students leaving campus during the school day must have permission from office personnel and parents before signing out in the main office.
- Students must sign out. If returning, they must sign in, indicating the time returned.
- Dismissal slips cannot be given for students to leave school and obtain medicine.
- The school cannot accept phone calls in lieu of written notes for early dismissals. Prior written or in person notification is required. **Emails to dismiss students will only be accepted in extreme circumstances and must also be verified by office staff prior to allowing the student to leave.**
- During exam times, students who leave campus after an exam should not return to campus.

Deliveries

Students will not be permitted to receive any deliveries at school. This includes but is not limited to: flowers, balloons, gifts, food orders such as pizza, Door Dash, Uber Eats, etc. The delivery causes a disruption of school and safety issues on buses. School personnel will not accept deliveries for any students.

Lost And Found

Lost and Found items will be placed in the main office.

Announcements

Announcements of importance to the school and club news need to be given to the principal the week before they are to be shared with students. The principal will place such announcements on the school television network. **Only announcements that are approved by the principal will be made daily over the school public address system.** Announcements are made during our intervention time and should be turned in to the principal prior to the beginning of the school day. All announcements must have the sponsor's approval and signature. Announcements are also posted on our website daily.

Injury at School

If a student is injured at school, the student should report immediately to the teacher whose class the student is attending. If the injury occurs between classes, report to the main office. The importance of reporting an injury is twofold. First, if medical attention is necessary, we can be sure that it is received. Secondly, if an insurance claim is involved, the school will have a record of the accident.

Illness at School

If a student should get sick at school, he/she should get permission from a teacher and then come to the office. If the student is too sick to remain at school, every effort will be made to contact the parents to come take the student home.

Distribution of Literature

Permission must be obtained from the administration before any posters can be placed anywhere on campus or before any printed materials (newspapers, advertisements, etc.) can be distributed to faculty and/or students. **Once approved, posters or other printed materials may be affixed to glass, not walls or doors.**

Flex Guidelines

Early release students (work/study students) including seniors who leave before fourth block, must have an early release permit on file. **All students must leave campus within the first five (5) minutes of the block. Students with afternoon FLEX scheduling who do not leave campus within the allotted time will be assigned to a class and the FLEX scheduling will be revoked. Students with morning FLEX scheduling who arrive on campus prior to the 1st period class dismissal bell must report to the Media Center until the bell rings.**

Fire Drills

The law requires a fire drill the 10 days of school and one each calendar month thereafter. Therefore, it is important that students become familiar with 'order of drill.' Posted beside the exit door of each classroom is a sign that indicates the exit that the class will use during a fire drill. Students should know the location of this exit and use it each time there is a fire drill. When using parts of the building other than a classroom, such as the library, gym, lunchroom, etc., students should know which exit to use in case there is a fire drill.

Important rules to remember are:

- Familiarize yourself with the fire drill signals.
- Always position yourself at least 100 feet away from the building.
- Close all windows and doors including exit doors.
- Treat every fire drill as if it were the real thing.

Code Red Drills

Code Red Drills will be conducted periodically and should be taken seriously by all students.

Tornado Drills

The tornado drill will be a series of long bells. Teachers will instruct students as to where to go during the drill. This drill will not be held during threatening weather and only after discussion with teachers.

Inclement Weather

During extremely bad weather it sometimes becomes necessary to make a decision concerning the closing of school. When a decision is made to close, all schools in the Harnett County systems will be affected. In order to accomplish this task in a timely and effective manner, school officials ask parents and students to do the following:

- Check for closings/delays on the Harnett County Schools website or on the Harnett County Schools Facebook page.
- Listen to one of the following radio or television stations for changes in schedule:

FM Stations

90.1 WCCE Radio
91.5 WUNC Radio
91.9 WFSS Radio
93.9 WRSN Radio
94.7 WQDR Radio

95.7 WKML Radio
96.1 WKIX Radio
98.1 WQSM Radio
99.1 WZFX Radio
100.7 WTRG Radio

101.5 WRAL Radio
103.5 WRCQ Radio
105.1 WDCG Radio
105.5 WFJA Radio
106.1 WRDU Radio

AM Stations:

620 WDNC Radio, 780 WCKB Radio
640 WFNC Radio, 1290 WCKL Radio
680 WPTF Radio, WLLN Radio

Television Stations:

WRAL TV – Channel 5
WNCN TV – Channel 17
WKFT TV – Channel 40

WTVD TV – Channel 11
WRDC TV – Channel 28
News 14 Carolina

Do not call the schools, central office, or school officials, these calls tie up the telephone lines and may prevent emergency communication to the news media and you.

The absence of any announcement means that the schools will be in session as usual.

Textbooks

Teachers issue textbooks, and each student is responsible for the proper care of the books and other materials issued. Students should pay for lost or damaged books prior to being issued a replacement textbook. In instances where materials of instruction and fees for services are not paid for by the county, each student is charged according to a schedule distributed the first week of school.

Instructional fees as approved by the Board of Education must be paid by each student and should be paid the first week of school. If a fee or charge is not paid or arrangements have not been made for payment of a fee or charge, the principal shall: withhold transcripts, transfer slips, grades, and diplomas until payment is made.

Theft Prevention

The best way to stop theft at school is to be conscious of the fact that you can eliminate the opportunities for thefts to occur. Each student and employee of the school has a responsibility in the area of preventing thefts. The school cannot be responsible for items that are lost or stolen. Bring only items needed for instruction to school.

Campus Facilities

Main Office

The main office is the business and attendance center for the school and houses administrative offices. Financial affairs, work permits, sign-in sheets and similar matters are handled there.

All Visitors, during school hours, must report to the main office and state their business. Students are not permitted to bring friends or relatives to class. Students are not allowed to have guests (including parents or relatives) visit them during their lunch periods.

Permission for any visitors to be in the building must be given by an administrator, and a visitor pass must be carried at all times. Visitors are to park at the front of the building during school hours. **Parents who are picking up students at the conclusion of the school day will enter at the Recreation Department entrance and park by the commons area entrance.**

School Telephones

Only in the event of an extreme emergency are students to use the telephones in the offices, and then, only with the permission of an administrator. Since the main office is the receiving area of all incoming phone calls and the number of lines available is limited, **NO MESSAGES WILL BE TAKEN FOR ANY STUDENT UNLESS THE CALL IS FROM A PARENT AND IS OF AN EXTREME EMERGENCY NATURE. All calls of this nature must be channeled through the receptionist or assistant**

principal.

The school cannot be responsible for relaying phone messages to students. Only in cases of extreme emergencies will messages be delivered. Questions will be asked of the caller to determine such emergencies. Students will not be excused from class to use telephones.

Any student who is sick should report to the nurse.

Lockers

Lockers are assigned for the entire year on an as needed basis. If locks are damaged, a replacement fee of \$10.00 will be charged. A damage fee will also be assessed for excessive damage and abuse to all lockers. Locker combinations are private. Students should not share this combination with anyone. **The school will not be responsible for any items** (textbooks, personal items, fundraising items, etc.) **that are stolen from the locker; therefore, students should not bring personal items, such as large sums of money, iPads or other personal devices to school at any time.** Lockers are the property of Western Harnett High School and are subject to inspection and/or search at any time by school officials.

Counseling Office

The Counseling Center at Western Harnett High School consists of four counselors and one registrar. Counselors are available to students with educational, personal, and goal-oriented concerns. Cumulative folders are maintained on each student. Transcripts and employment references may be requested by prospective employers and post-secondary educational institutions with written permission of the students and/or parents. Information concerning scholarships and financial aid is also available in the guidance department. Although counselors may request to see students during the school year for various reasons, it is highly desirable that students take the initiative in requesting to see their counselors. Counselors are available to students during school, with the **teacher's permission** (accompanied with a pass) during class periods. Students should sign in on the guidance request form and wait to be called to the guidance office.

Students interested in trying to obtain a scholarship should take the most difficult courses in which they can be successful. Counselors will work closely with students to make sure all information is available and to give instructions regarding the procedure to follow in making an application.

Media Center

The Media Center represents the single most important resource center available to students and is open daily. The purpose of the library is for reading and research, not for visiting and socializing. The library staff has complete authority to regulate the learning environment.

Students are encouraged to use the media center independently as well as during class time. Students must have a pass to visit the media center during classes. **The library may not be available during a student's lunch period as other students who are still in class will have priority.**

Books may be checked out for two weeks and renewed for another two weeks. Reference materials may be checked out overnight, but are due back in the library before school the next day. Magazines may be signed out for use in the library only. Audio-visual materials are available for use in the library. Proper checking in of books is the responsibility of the student returning the item.

Automobile Regulations

Driving a personal vehicle to school and parking it on campus is a privilege that we are happy to extend to all students who lawfully qualify. To ensure safety and security, the following rules and regulations are important:

- Register your vehicle for an assigned parking space for the year (Purchase a student parking sticker).
- Observe a five (5) mile per hour speed limit everywhere on campus.
- Park in the student parking lot **only in your assigned space.** Parking in an undesignated area may result in loss of driving privileges or other disciplinary action.
- Once in your designated parking space, **turn your vehicle off and enter the building immediately.**
- Do not return to cars during school hours unless given permission by an administrator or unless you are dismissed early.
- Do not smoke in the parking area.
- Do not litter in the parking area.

- Avoid careless and reckless driving.
- Student vehicles parked at Western Harnett High School may be subject to inspection/search at any time by school officials.
- Students who are consistently late arriving on campus face the possibility of losing their driving privileges for the semester.
- In the afternoon, do not loiter in the parking lot. Students should leave campus immediately.
- Every effort will be made to insure safety and security in the parking area. Vehicle doors should be locked when students leave their vehicles as the school is not responsible for the vehicle or its contents. The penalty for violating automobile regulations may result in a suspension of parking privileges and possible disciplinary action.

Code of Conduct for Western Harnett High School

Western Harnett High School is an institution of learning. It is the school's goal to make responsible citizens of its students and it is the students' responsibility to reflect the ideals of Western Harnett High School. Repeated violations of the code of conduct interfere with student learning. Therefore, when repeated violations occur, penalties for these violations will increase in severity.

Rule 1 - Electronic Devices (cellular phones, AirPods, tablets, headphones, etc.)

Cell phones/personal electronic devices used by students are not allowed during the school day. All students will be issued a Yondr pouch in which they are expected to keep all electronics. Phones are to be powered down or put on airplane mode. These are to remain locked once they enter the building until they leave. If a student is seen with a cell phone or personal electronic device in the building that is not in their Yondr pouch, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Upon the second time that a device is confiscated, the student's parent/guardian will be required to retrieve it from the school (second offense). Continued violation of this expectation can result in more serious consequences to include ISS. If a student refuses to turn over an electronic device when asked by staff the student will receive 1 day of OSS for Insubordination. Beginning **Monday, October 13th, 2025** students will receive one day of ISS if they have a phone or technology device not locked in their Yondr pouch for their first offense. All subsequent violations will result in one day of OSS. Students are able to use the student phone in the front office or the classroom phone, with permission of their teacher. The use of Yondr pouches is not negotiable. Students are expected to have them at school each day. There will be regular checks. Any damaged or lost pouches will result in a \$36.50 replacement fee. If any electronic device is brought to school and becomes lost or stolen, school personnel will not investigate the incident or search for the item. It is always recommended that valuable items be left at home or in a secure area. Please be advised that anyone caught stealing will be dealt with according to the Student Code of Conduct Policy. School personnel try to prevent losses, but they are not responsible for students' personal property.

Rule 2 - Dress Code: (To Coincide with Harnett County Policy Code 4300 Rule #4-attached)

Western Harnett High School is a place of learning, and student dress should respect the dignity of the establishment. To that end, certain minimum standards are in place with regards to student dress. These restrictions are designed to promote learning, safety, and hygiene in the school environment. The administration is the final authority on whether an item of clothing is acceptable or not.

All students are expected to wear appropriate clothing for school at all times. Parents are asked to be aware of your child's attire daily so he/she will be in compliance with the following dress code.

- Shoes are to be worn at all times. Plastic flip flops, slippers or shower shoes are not allowed.
- Shirts and pants should be buttoned and/or zipped properly. Ripped jeans and jeans with holes are acceptable as long as no skin is exposed above the fingertips. If worn, shorts, leggings, etc must be worn underneath.
- No pajamas or sleepwear is permitted. Yoga pants, athletic pants, jeggings and leggings should be worn with an appropriate length shirt or dress.
- Hats, hoods, bandanas, sleeping caps, and sunglasses may not be worn in the school building.
- All shorts/dresses/skirts should be an appropriate length. A general guideline is not above fingertips. Appropriateness may be determined by Administration.
- All clothing should fit appropriately. No secondary layer of clothing (underwear) should be seen above the waistline of the pants or shorts. All shorts and pants should fit at the waistline. Sagging waistlines, exposed undergarments, off the shoulder tops, exposed midriffs, halter tops or shirts with spaghetti straps will not be allowed.
- Clothing should not be worn that advertises inappropriate products for this age level and/or depicts inappropriate slogans, pictures or language to include lewd or profane graphics, or promotes drug or alcohol use or gang participation is prohibited.
- The absence or addition of anything else that would be embarrassing to those present, disruptive to the learning environment or reflect adversely on the school in any way is strictly prohibited.

The dress code policy will be enforced by staff. Students not adhering to the dress code will be directed to correct the problem on their

own if possible. If not, they will need to contact home for a change of clothing. If they are unable to contact anyone or change, they report to ISS. Dress code expectations are regularly reviewed with students. Certain courses may have more specific requirements (PE, science labs, professional courses). In those cases, the teacher's requirements will stand in addition to these minimum requirements.

Rule 3 - Conduct in Cafeteria

The following rules will govern the conduct of the students while in the cafeteria. All students shall report to the cafeteria and remain inside for the entire lunch period. No students will be allowed to remain in the commons area during lunch. No one should break in line. A student should not throw food or drink. Students are not to talk loudly or boisterously. Students should not leave trays, food, or other objects on the table, in the chairs, or on the floor. Breakfast and lunch must be eaten in the cafeteria. No food or drink should be taken back to class. All students should remain seated throughout their lunch period.

Rule 4 - Conduct in Halls

The following rules will apply to student conduct in the halls and corridors: **Public displays of affection are prohibited.** The main stairwell in front of the office is to be used as an **"up stairwell"** during class changes. Students are not allowed to come down this stairwell because of the congestion at the bottom of the stairs that is created by the up and down traffic pattern. Order must be maintained in the halls and corridors. Therefore, loitering in the halls, blocking hallways, and unsatisfactory behavior will not be tolerated.

Specifically, students shall

- ✓ **Move** directly to class
- ✓ **Avoid clustering** in groups that impede traffic flow
- ✓ **Avoid standing** in or near stairwells, hall entrances, and media center area
- ✓ **WALK to the right** of the hall and stairs. No running, pushing, or horse playing shall be allowed.

Rule 5 - Courtesy to Others in the Building

At all times students must display a courteous manner to the principal, teachers, and other school personnel. To maintain a safe and orderly environment adults must be in charge in the building. Students are required to comply with all reasonable requests of any adult in the building. Failure to comply with reasonable requests will result in disciplinary measures in line with major offenses.

Rule 6 - Leaving School without Permission

Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds without an early dismissal note from the Attendance Office. Any student who checks in after the start of first period must go to the attendance office for the appropriate note to leave school. Once permission is obtained, students must sign out in the office before they leave campus. In addition, students who legally leave school and return to school that same day, or students who arrive at school after 7:30, must sign in at the office. Automobiles and buses will be off limits until school is dismissed.

Rule 7 - Skipping Class

Students are to be in class during the assigned class time. A student must have a note if they are in the hallway during instructional time. If a student does not have a note from their teacher they are considered skipping and a major referral will be written.

Rule 8 - Forgery of Parent, Student, or Teacher Signatures

A student who is found to have signed another's name on a note to or from parents, on report cards, and on doctors' notes or other notes from persons in authority will have a major referral written and disciplinary action will be taken.

Rule 9 - Profanity -- Either General or Directed at a Person

Students who use profane language in the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria or anywhere on the school grounds, on school buses or at official school functions will have disciplinary action taken as appropriate. **Profanity directed towards staff will result in immediate suspension.**

Rule 10 - Food/Drink Items

No food items are to be consumed in the academic areas with the exception of water. No open containers of food or drink may be

carried beyond the cafeteria. No outside drinks/food may be brought into the building.

Rule 11 - Gambling

Gambling and/or card playing will not be permitted at any time on any school property including school buses. In addition, students should not have playing cards in their possession while on school property.

Rule 12 – Conduct on a School Vehicle:

All school buses and bus stops are considered school property and all code of student conduct rules apply on buses and at bus stops. Students are expected to sit in assigned seats and cooperate fully with all directions of the driver or other staff. Failure to follow driver direction can result in immediate bus suspension. Western Harnett High school will not make changes to bus pick up/drop off locations. Students cannot ride a bus home other than the bus that is assigned to their home address. Due to the fact that bus routes are specific and capacities are limited, no request to ride a different bus will be honored. Students may only load and unload the bus at their designated stop. Students will not be allowed to be picked up or dropped off at any stop other than the one assigned to them by the bus garage.

Rule 13 - Vapes

Any student in possession or actively using a vape will be suspended from school.

Policies and procedures contained within this handbook are not all inclusive. Occasionally, situations arise which must be addressed. The administration reserves the right to preserve the integrity of Western Harnett High School and provide a safe and orderly school environment by addressing additional misbehavior fairly and consistently when such need arises.

Western Harnett High School Honor Code

Purpose

Western Harnett High School is a place for students to develop the academic and critical thinking skills to become productive citizens. An adherence to academic honesty and integrity is vital to producing self-reliant citizens and ensures that schoolwork accurately reflects student learning. Cheating and plagiarism violate ethical and moral rules of conduct as well as Board Policy 3000, which states Integrity as one of the Board's core values. Additionally, these behaviors inhibit a student's ability to reach his/her academic potential and compromise the trust between teacher and student. Each student, parent, and staff member has a responsibility to promote an academic culture that respects and fosters individual achievement.

The Honor Code

At Western Harnett High School I am expected to conduct myself honorably in pursuit of academic excellence; thus, I will not cheat or plagiarize.

Definitions and Examples

Cheating - Defined as receiving or giving unauthorized assistance on academic work that may be used as a graded assessment for any course/subject.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Copying answers from another student's quiz/test
- Providing or using unauthorized notes, data, or other aids, such as dictionaries, calculators, cell phones, or other electronic devices during quizzes or tests
- Copying another student's work, either in part or in its entirety
- Allowing someone to copy work
- Pressuring someone to provide his/her homework or assignment for the purpose of copying
- Using electronic devices/social media to share or receive unauthorized information
- Relaying assessment content, questions, or answers to students who have not yet taken the assessment

Plagiarizing - Defined as copying the language, structure, or ideas of another (in whole or in part) and representing it as one's own

work.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Copying material directly from published material or a website without providing documentation and a works cited/bibliography
- Turning in an assignment or project that was written in part or in entirety by someone else
- Making up sources or including sources not contained in the works cited page
- Altering, restating, or paraphrasing another person's words, ideas, or work without giving credit or acknowledging the source (including - but not limited to - text, music and video clips, photos, graphics, and artwork)

Responsibilities

Student Responsibilities:

- Learn and abide by the Western Harnett High School Honor Code
- Pledge to uphold and sustain academic integrity by serving as an example to all students
- Help establish an academic environment where all members of the school community view cheating as socially unacceptable
- Understand that violations may prevent entry into the Beta Club or other school honor societies

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- Fully understand and support academic integrity and the Western Harnett High School Honor Code Policy
- Support the academic integrity of the school by establishing clear expectations with their student
- Support the school's decision regarding consequences should their student violate the Western Harnett High School Honor Code (see consequences below)

Teacher Responsibilities:

- To display, review, and uphold the Western Harnett High School Honor Code in the classroom
- To provide students specific examples of how this policy applies in their classes
- To keep a signed list of students' signatures signifying their understanding of the Honor Code for each class
- To closely monitor students in any academic setting
- To report any violation of the Western Harnett High School Honor Code to the parent/guardian and the appropriate administrator

Administrator Responsibilities:

- To provide students, parents, and faculty/staff with a written copy of the Western Harnett High School Honor Code
- To display the Western Harnett High School Honor Code in general areas of the school
- To review and uphold the Western Harnett High School Honor Code
- To meet with students referred for academic integrity violations and contact parents accordingly

Consequences for Violating the Western Harnett High School Honor Code

59 Rule Any student caught cheating on any assignment will be able to re-do an alternate assignment, with the highest possible grade being a 59. Assignments that are not resubmitted within the designated period set by the teacher will be assigned a grade of 0.

HARNETT COUNTY SCHOOLS TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

BUS TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Harnett County Schools (HCS) provides transportation for children to and from their residence or predetermined location (by school administration). As such the following rules and procedures shall apply:

1. **All** students are expected to be prepared to board the bus 10 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival time.
2. **All** students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with Policy Code: 4300 Code of Student Conduct. Discipline, as a result of violations of policies, will be the responsibility of each individual school.
3. Your child will be transported to and from your residence or predetermined approved location to the school in the district in which you reside each school day. **(Grades PreK-12)**
4. Students who attend school out of district at the parent's request do not qualify for transportation. **(Grades PreK-12)**
5. You or a responsible adult shall be available at the bus stop to receive your child at the end of the school day from the school bus if your child requires assistance. **(Grades PreK-2 only)**
6. If you or the approved responsible adult is not at the bus stop to receive your child, the driver will transport your child back to the school. **(Grades PreK-2 only)**
7. On the second occasion that this situation occurs, the Principal will schedule a mandatory conference with the parent(s). **(Grades PreK-2 only)**
8. On the third occasion that this situation occurs, HCS will notify Harnett County Department of Social Services (HCDSS) and immediately schedule a meeting involving HCS, HCDSS and you to address this concern. **(Grades PreK-2 only)**
9. If an emergency situation occurs in your home beyond your control and it becomes necessary for your child to be discharged at a location other than one previously approved, **a written request must be provided to the child's Principal in advance.** The request must meet HCS board policy 6321 and contain the following information to be considered: **(Grades PreK-12)**
 - a. Address of temporary discharge/pickup location
 - b. Name of responsible adult receiving your child
 - c. Telephone number of temporary address
 - d. Your telephone number during the emergency
 - e. The length of time of the request is to be honored
10. Bus drivers and administrators have the authority to return students to the school in the event of safety or disciplinary circumstances. The parent or legal guardian is then responsible for picking up their student(s).

Parents of children with Preschool Disabilities, Exceptional Children's Program students needing special transportation in accordance with their IEP, and all K-2 students are required to provide supervision at the bus stop for drop-off and pickup. **(This applies to all early release and inclement weather days as well.)**

I, _____, am the parent/legal guardian of, _____ Grade ____, a child receiving transportation services from Harnett County School. I have read and understand the procedures that apply to transportation services and I consent and agree to abide by them. I have been given a copy of the procedures. I understand that my student(s) could lose this privilege to ride the Harnett County school bus (es) if these guidelines are not followed.

Parent Signature

Relationship

Harnett County Schools Policies and Procedures

2025 - 2026

The following section contains policies and procedures that parents and students should review annually. The policies and procedures in this section are effective as of the date of printing this handbook. Policies may be revised, as needed, by the Harnett County Board of Education. This is not an exhaustive list of policies by the Harnett County Board of Education; a complete list of current policies can be found on the Harnett County Schools website at www.harnett.k12.nc.us. If parents and/or students do not have access to the policies online, they may contact the school for a printed copy of any Harnett County Schools policy.

Policies and Procedures Included

1. Student Behavior Policies – Policy Code: 4300
2. Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law – Policy Code: 1710/4020/7230
3. Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex – Policy Code: 1720/4030/7235
4. Anti-Harassment Statement
5. Student and Parent Grievance Procedure – Policy Code: 1740/4010
6. Notification of Rights Under Family Educational Rights and Privacy (FERPA)
7. Attendance – Policy Code: 4400
8. Student Searches – Policy Code: 4342
9. Smoking and Tobacco Products – Policy Code: 5026/7250
10. Technology Responsible Use – Policy Code: 3225/4312/7320
11. Student Membership and Participation in Educational Websites
12. Network Security – Policy Code: 6524
13. Use of Wireless Communication Devices – Policy Code: 4318
14. Parents Right to Know Letter
15. Student Health – A Note from the Nurse
16. Student Health History – All Students

STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY Policy Code: 4300

All decisions related to student behavior are guided by the board's educational objective to teach responsibility and respect for cultural and ideological differences and by the board's commitment to creating safe, orderly, and inviting schools. Student behavior policies are provided in order to establish (1) expected standards of student behavior; (2) principles to be followed in managing student behavior; (3) consequences for prohibited behavior; and (4) required procedures for addressing misbehavior. Teachers, school-based administrators, parents, and law enforcement will be consulted when existing student behavior policies are revised or new such policies are created.

A. Principles

The reasons for managing student behavior are to (1) create an orderly environment in which students can learn; (2) teach expected standards of behavior; (3) help students learn to accept the consequences of their behavior; and (4) provide students with the opportunity to develop self-control. The following principles apply in managing student behavior.

1. Student behavior management strategies will complement other efforts to create a safe, orderly, and inviting environment.
2. Positive behavioral interventions will be employed as appropriate to improve student behavior.
3. Responsibility, integrity, civility, and other standards of behavior will be integrated into the curriculum.

4. Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated.
5. Consequences for unacceptable behavior will be designed to help a student learn to comply with rules, to be respectful, to accept responsibility for his or her behavior, and to develop self-control.
6. Strategies and consequences will be age and developmentally appropriate.

B. Communication of Policies

Board policies related to student behavior are codified mainly in the 4300 series. The superintendent shall incorporate information from such policies into a Code of Student Conduct that notifies students of the behavior expected of them, conduct that may subject them to discipline, and the range of disciplinary measures that may be used by school officials. At the discretion of the superintendent, the Code of Student Conduct may include additional rules needed to implement the board's student behavior policies. To elaborate further on processes for addressing student misbehavior and the use of intervention strategies and consequences, each school will create a student behavior management plan that is consistent with the law, board policies, and the Code of Student Conduct (see policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior). The Code of Student Conduct must incorporate by reference any additional student behavior standards, prohibited conduct, or disciplinary measures identified in student behavior management plans developed by individual schools. The Code of Student Conduct must not impose mandatory long-term suspension or expulsion for specific violations unless otherwise provided in state or federal law.

At the beginning of each school year, principals shall make available to each student and parent all of the following: (1) the Code of Student Conduct; (2) any board policies related to behavior that are not part of the Code of Conduct; (3) any related administrative procedures; (4) any additional discipline-related information from the school's student behavior management plan, including behavior standards, prohibited conduct, or disciplinary measures; and (5) any other school rules. This information must be available at other times upon request and must be made available to students enrolling during the school year and their parents.

For the purpose of board policies related to student behavior, all references to "parent" include a parent, a legal guardian, a legal custodian, or another caregiver adult authorized to enroll a student under policy 4120, Domicile or Residence Requirements.

C. Applicability

Students must comply with the Code of Student Conduct in the following circumstances:

1. while in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after school hours;
2. while on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
3. while waiting at any school bus stop;
4. during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity;
5. when subject to the authority of school employees; and
6. at any other place or time when the student's behavior has or is reasonably expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, students will not be disciplined for constitutionally protected behavior. School officials are encouraged to consult with senior administrators before regulating student expression that may be protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

D. Consequences for Violations

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct must be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the school's behavior management plan (see policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior).

1. Minor Violations

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct are those less severe infractions involving a lower degree of dangerousness and harm. Examples of minor violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations, and minor physical altercations that do not involve a weapon or an injury. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in policy 4351, Short-Term Suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. parental involvement, such as conferences;
- b. isolation or time-out for short periods of time;
- c. behavior improvement agreements;
- d. instruction in conflict resolution and anger management;
- e. peer mediation;
- f. individual or small group sessions with the school counselor;
- g. academic intervention;
- h. in-school suspension;
- i. detention before and/or after school or on Saturday;
- j. community service;
- k. exclusion from graduation ceremonies;
- l. exclusion from extracurricular activities;
- m. suspension from bus privileges; and
- n. placement in an alternative school.

The student's parent is responsible for transportation that may be required to carry out a consequence. With the exception of suspension from bus privileges, if a parent is unable to provide transportation, another consequence will be substituted.

2. Serious Violations

Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of students, school employees, or school visitors may result in long-term suspension or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may result in a 365-day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions, and expulsions is provided in policies 4351, Short-Term Suspension, and 4353, Long-Term Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion. (See also policy 4333, Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety, for information regarding 365-day suspensions for certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices.)

E. Enforcement

The superintendent is responsible for supervising the enforcement of the Code of Student Conduct to ensure that school disciplinary policies are uniformly and fairly applied throughout the school system and consistent with students' constitutional rights.

F. Conduct Rules

All students shall comply with all rules and regulations governing behavior and conduct. Students shall be informed by local school rules or school personnel of any infraction not listed in this Code that may result in short-term or long-term suspension or expulsion.

RULE 1 Compliance with Directions of School Personnel

Students shall comply with the directions of school personnel who are authorized to give such directions during any time when students are subject to the authority of school personnel; and/or at any time when the student's behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline and protecting the safety and welfare of students and staff.

A violation of this rule is deemed a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

RULE 2 Integrity and Civility; Cheating

All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility and self control. In addition to any standards or rules established by the schools, the following behaviors are specifically prohibited as violative of the standards of integrity and civility:

- cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work;
- plagiarizing, including the copying of the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work;
- providing verbal or written statements of false information;
- violating copyright laws, including unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material;

- willfully, directly or indirectly accessing or causing to be accessed any computer, computer network or any part thereof without proper authorization or otherwise violating policy 3225/4312, Technology Acceptable Use.
- cursing or using vulgar, abusive or demeaning language towards another person; and
- playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or personnel to personal indignity.

A violation of this rule is deemed a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

RULE 3 Disruptive Behavior

An orderly environment is critical for teachers to be able to teach and students to be able to learn. Students are encouraged to participate in school efforts to create a safe, orderly and inviting environment. Students also are encouraged to exercise their constitutional rights to free speech as a part of a stimulating, inviting educational environment. A student's right to free speech will not be infringed upon; however school officials may place reasonable, constitutional restrictions on time, place and manner in order to preserve a safe, orderly environment.

Students are prohibited from disrupting teaching, the orderly conduct of school activities, or any other lawful function of the school or school district. The following conduct is illustrative of disruptive behavior and is prohibited:

- occupying any school building, school grounds, school buses or part thereof with the intent to deprive others of its use;
- intentional verbal or physical acts which result or have the potential to result in blocking access to school functions or facilities or preventing the convening or continuation of school-related functions;
- participating in any boycott of any lawful school function, mission or process or participating in any sit-in or any walkout which causes or results in the disruption of any lawful function, mission or process of the school district or of any school in the school district;
- engaging in any protest, march, picketing or similar activity (on or off school premises) that causes or results in the disruption of any lawful function, mission or process of the school district or of any school in the school district;
- preventing students from attending a class or school activity;
- except under the direct instruction of the principal, blocking normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school premises;
- intentionally making noise or acting in any manner so as to interfere with any teacher's ability to conduct his or her class or to carry on any school activity;
- possessing or distributing literature or illustrations which significantly disrupt the educational process or which are obscene or unlawful;
- engaging in behavior which is immoral, indecent, lewd, disreputable or of an overly sexual nature in the school setting;
- failing to observe established safety rules, standards and regulations, including on the bus and in hallways; and
- interfering with the operation of school buses, including delaying the bus schedule, getting off at an unauthorized stop, and willfully trespassing upon a school bus.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 4 Student Dress Code

The board prohibits appearance or clothing that does the following:

- violates a reasonable dress code adopted and publicized by the school,
- is substantially disruptive,
- is provocative or obscene, or
- endangers the health or safety of the student or others.

A violation of this rule is deemed a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

RULE 5 Misconduct on a School Vehicle

The following conduct is specifically prohibited on a school vehicle:

- stopping, impeding, delaying or detaining a bus or school vehicle;
- throwing or launching objects on the bus;
- disturbing the peace, order or discipline on a bus or school vehicle;
- refusing to obey the driver's instructions;
- refusing to meet the bus at the designated stop;
- tampering with or willfully damaging the bus or school vehicle;
- getting off a bus at an unauthorized stop;
- distracting the driver's attention by participating in disruptive behavior while the vehicle is in operation;
- failing to observe established safety rules and regulations;
- willfully trespassing upon a school bus or school vehicle;
- fighting, smoking, using profanity, possession or using drugs or intoxicating beverages, or otherwise violating any other board policy or school rule while on a school bus or other school vehicle; and
- any other behavior that may endanger lives or property.

Any complaints of drivers, parents or student that are not specified in the above list should be reported promptly to the school principal.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy. Upon request and when deemed appropriate, a principal may use his/her discretion and restore a student's bus privileges if the principal, bus driver, student and parent agree to a written behavior improvement agreement that includes specific steps and consequences for future inappropriate behavior.

It is a criminal offense to unlawfully and willfully stop, impede, delay or detain a school or activity bus or to disturb the peace, order or discipline on a school or activity bus. Students who engage in such activities may be subject to criminal charges.

The bus driver may not remove students from the bus en route.

RULE 6 Tobacco Products

In support of the board's commitments and state and federal law, students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product (1) in any school building, school vehicle or on the school grounds at any time; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including school trips. For the purposes of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means any

product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products.

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

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

Students will be provided notice of this rule through student handbooks or other means identified by the principal. In addition, the principal will post signs in a manner and locations that adequately notify staff, students and visitors about prohibitions against the use of tobacco products on school grounds and in school buildings.

A violation of this rule is deemed a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation. In providing consequences for violation of this rule, school officials are encouraged to identify programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards for the tobacco user, the hazards of secondhand smoke and the impact of tobacco use on efforts to provide a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment.

RULE 7 Drugs and Alcohol

The Harnett County School District believes that it is in the best interests of the community to take steps to promote, enhance and maintain a drug-free school system and student body, and that along with parents and other segments of the community, the school system has a role in helping students to remain drug free. The Harnett County School District, therefore, endorses a comprehensive program in the area of substance abuse. Alcohol and drug education will be taught to all grade levels and assistance will be offered to students who are having alcohol or drug related problems.

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting, selling or being under the influence of any of the following substances:

- narcotic drugs;
- hallucinogenic drugs;
- amphetamines;
- barbiturates;
- marijuana or any other controlled substance;
- any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor; or
- any chemicals or products procured or used with the intention of bringing about a state of exhilaration or euphoria or of otherwise altering the student's mood or behavior.

Students also are prohibited from possessing, using, transmitting or selling drug paraphernalia or counterfeit (fake) drugs. Students may not in any way participate in the selling or transmitting of prohibited substances, regardless of whether the sale or transmission ultimately occurs on school property. Beepers and portable phones may not be used by students unless specifically authorized by the principal.

Possession or use of prescription and over the counter drugs are not in violation of this rule if possessed and used in accordance with board policy 6125, Administering Medicines to Students. The principal may authorize other lawful uses of substances otherwise prohibited by this rule, such as for approved school projects.

A violation of this rule is deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

As required by board policy 4345, Criminal Behavior, the principal must report to the appropriate law enforcement agency any student who has used or possessed the substances prohibited by this policy

RULE 8 Theft and Damage to Property

Students are prohibited from stealing or attempting to steal school or private property, and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen property. Students also are prohibited from damaging or attempting to damage any school property or private property at any time when board policies are applicable as defined in this code.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 9 Trespass

Students are prohibited from trespassing on school property. A student will be considered a trespasser and may be criminally prosecuted under any of the following circumstances:

- a student who is on the campus of a school to which he or she is not assigned during the school day without the knowledge and consent of the officials of the school the student is visiting;
- any student who loiters at any school after the close of the school day without specific need or supervision; or
- any student who has been suspended from school who appears on the property of any school during the suspension period without the express permission of the principal.

A violation of this rule is deemed a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

RULE 10 Assaults and Physical Injury

Students are prohibited from assaulting, physically injuring, attempting to injure or intentionally behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause injury to any other person. Assault includes engaging in a fight.

A minor physical altercation that does not involve a weapon or an injury is a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

A serious physical altercation that involves a weapon or injury is considered a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 11 Threats

Students are prohibited from directing toward any other person any language which threatens force, violence or disruption, or any sign or act which constitutes a threat of force, violence or disruption.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 12 Harassment

Students are prohibited from engaging in or encouraging any form of harassment, including bullying, against students, employees or any other individuals on school grounds or at school-related functions. Harassment is unwanted, unwelcomed and uninvited behavior that demeans, threatens or offends the victim and results in a hostile environment for the victim. The hostile environment can be created through pervasive or persistent misbehavior or a single incident if sufficiently severe. Harassment is further defined in policy 1710/4021/7230, Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 13 Bullying

Bullying is conduct that subjects a student to insults, taunts or challenges, whether verbal or physical in nature, which is likely to intimidate, cause emotional distress or provoke a disorderly response from the student being treated in this manner. Bullying usually involves intentional, repeated and harmful acts, words or behavior directed to a particular student or group of students. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, name calling, threatening, social alienation, spreading rumors, spitting, pushing or punching.

Any student with a complaint about bullying should report it to the principal or assistant principal. In addition, any employee who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student has been subjected to bullying should report it immediately to the principal or assistant principal.

Complaints of harassment will be investigated pursuant to policy 1720/4015/7225, Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure. A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 14 Hazing

Hazing by any individual or group associated with the school system is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Hazing is defined as subjecting another student to physical injury or assault as part of an initiation or as a prerequisite to membership into any organized school group, including any athletic team, club, society or similar group. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, requiring any student to wear abnormal dress or costume on campus; playing abusive or ridiculous tricks on a student; frightening, scolding, beating or harassing a student; or subjecting a student to personal indignity.

The board of education reserves the right to disband any extracurricular club or athletic team due to hazing, if the circumstances merit such action.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 15 Weapons

Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, using or transmitting, whether concealed or open, any weapon, or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon. Weapons include all of the following:

- loaded or unloaded firearm, including a gun, pistol or rifle;
- explosives, including a dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade or mine;
- knife, including a pocket knife, bowie knife, switchblade, dirk, dagger or machete;
- slingshot or slungshot;
- leaded cane, loaded cane or canesword;
- blackjack;
- metal knuckles;
- BB gun;
- air rifle or air pistol;
- stun gun or other electric shock weapon;
- ice pick;
- razor or razor blade (except solely for personal shaving);
- fireworks; and
- any sharp pointed or edged instrument except unaltered nail files and clips and tools used solely for preparation of food, instruction and maintenance.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid any other student to possess, handle or use any of the weapons or weapon-like items listed above. A student who finds a weapon or weapon-like item, who witnesses another student or other persons with such items, or becomes aware that another student or other persons intends to possess, handle or use such items, must notify a law enforcement officer or a school employee as soon as practical.

This rule does not apply to pupils who are members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps and who are required to carry arms or weapons in the discharge of their official class duties; nor does this section apply to a firearm that was brought onto educational property for activities approved and authorized by the Board of Education.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy. As required by law, a student who brings or possesses a firearm or destructive device on educational property or at a school-sponsored event off educational property shall be suspended for 365 days. The superintendent may modify the required 365 day suspension for an individual student on a case-by-case basis. A student who brings a firearm or powerful explosive to school also shall be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

RULE 16 Bomb Threats

Students are prohibited from making, aiding and/or abetting in making a bomb threat or perpetrating a bomb hoax against school district property by making a false report that a device designed to cause damage or destruction by explosion, blasting or burning is located on school property.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a bomb, make a bomb threat or perpetrate a bomb hoax must notify a law enforcement officer or a school employee as soon as practical.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy. A student who violates this rule also shall be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system.

RULE 17 Terrorist Threats

Students are prohibited from making, aiding, conspiring and/or abetting in making a terrorist threat or perpetrating a terrorist hoax against school district property by making a false report that a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening injury to another person is located on school property.

No student may knowingly or willfully cause, encourage or aid another student to make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax. Any student who becomes aware that another student or other person intends to use a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person, make a terrorist threat or perpetrate a terrorist hoax must notify a law enforcement officer or a school employee as soon as practical.

No student shall:

- a. make a false report that there is a device, substance or material designed to cause harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person located on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity;
- b. conceal, place, disseminate or display a device, machine, instrument, artifact, letter, package material or substance on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity with the intent to cause others to believe the device is a substance or material capable of causing harmful or life-threatening illness or injury to another person;
- c. threaten to commit on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity an act of terror that is likely to cause death, with the intent to cause a significant disruption to the instructional day or school-sponsored activity or which actually causes such disruption;
- d. make a false report that there is about to occur or is occurring on school property or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity an act of terror that is likely to cause serious injury or death, with the intent to cause a significant disruption to the instructional day or school-sponsored activity or which actually causes such disruption;
- e. conspire to commit any of the above-described acts.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy. A student who violates this section also will be referred to the criminal justice and/or juvenile justice system.

RULE 18 Gang-Related Activities

The presence of gangs and gang activities can cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with school and school activities.

No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall:

1. wear, possess, use distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang, as identified by school personnel;
2. commit any act or omission, or use any speech, either verbal or non-verbal (gestures, hand-shakes, etc.) showing membership or affiliation in any gang;

3. use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to:

- a. soliciting others for membership in any gang;
- b. requesting any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate or threaten any person;
- c. committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies; and
- d. inciting other students to act with physical violence upon another person.

School administrators are responsible for compiling and updating a list of prohibited gang attire or symbols and publicizing it to students.

A violation of this rule may be deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 19 Criminal Behavior

Criminal or other illegal behavior is prohibited. Any student who the principal reasonably believes to have engaged in criminal behavior on the school premises or at school activities will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as stated in applicable board policies and may be criminally prosecuted as well. For the purposes of this section, "school premises" includes any public school building, bus, public school campus, grounds, recreational area, or athletic field, in the charge of the principal.

School officials will cooperate fully with any criminal investigation and prosecution. School officials will independently investigate any criminal behavior that also violates school rules or board policy.

STUDENTS CHARGED WITH OR CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

If necessary, the superintendent and principal may take reasonable measures to preserve a safe, orderly environment when a student has been charged or convicted with a serious crime, regardless of whether the alleged offense was committed on school grounds or related to school activities. Depending upon the circumstances, including the nature of the alleged crime, the child's age, and the publicity within the school community, reasonable efforts may include changing a student's classroom assignment or transferring the student to another school. Transfer to the alternative school may be made in accordance with the criteria established in board policy 3470/4305, Alternative Schools. The student will continue to be provided with educational opportunities unless and until the student is found to have violated board policy or school rules and is suspended or expelled in accordance with procedures established in board policy.

REPORTING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

The principal must report immediately to law enforcement officers and the superintendent the following acts when the principal has personal knowledge or actual notice from others that such acts occurred on school property, regardless of the age or grade of the perpetrator or victim:

- assault resulting in serious personal injury;
- sexual assault;
- sexual offense;
- rape;
- kidnapping;
- indecent liberties with a minor;

- assault involving the use of a weapon;
- possession of a firearm in violation of the law;
- possession of a weapon in violation of the law;
- possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law;
- assault on school officials, employees and/or volunteers;
- homicide, including murder, manslaughter and death by vehicle;
- robbery; or armed robbery;
- theft from the person;
- theft of property valued over \$75.00
- breaking or entering of a school;
- theft from a motor vehicle(s);
- theft of a motor vehicle;
- arson;
- possession of stolen property;
- vandalism over \$200.00.

A violation of this rule is deemed a serious violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor and serious violations as set forth in this policy.

RULE 20 Attendance

Students must comply with attendance requirements as outlined in board policy 4400,

Attendance.

A violation of this rule is deemed a minor violation and is subject to all of the consequences for minor violations as set forth in this policy. Provided, however, a student shall not be subject to a suspension of more than two days for a violation of this policy.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; Mahanoy Area School Dist. v. B.L., 594 U.S. ___, 141 S. Ct. 2038 (2021); G.S. 115C-47, -276(r), -288, -307, -390.1, -390.2

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Counseling Program (policy 3610), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Student Behavior policies (4300 series)

Adopted: April 4, 1977

Revised: August 5, 1991; January 10, 1994; April 3, 2000; October 4, 2004; October 6, 2008, February 8, 2010, July 13, 2011; September 10, 2018, November 14, 2022; December 4, 2023

Harnett County Schools

Policy Code: 1710/4020/7230 Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law

The board acknowledges the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, orderly, caring, and inviting school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement. The board prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability, or age (40 or older) in its education program, which includes all operations, services, and activities of the school system, and will provide equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by law. In the context of

employment, the board prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, disability, age (40 or older), military affiliation, genetic information, or other unlawful grounds.

All forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment are subject to this policy except for sexual harassment in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which is addressed separately in policies 1725/4035/7236, Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process, and 1726/4036/7237, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process.

Though claims of discrimination or harassment on the basis of disability, as specified in policy 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities, are subject to this policy, allegations regarding or related to the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or free appropriate public education of a student under Section 504 or the IDEA may be raised through the system of procedural safeguards established under policy 1730/4022/7231 (for Section 504 complaints) or in accordance with the procedures described in Parents Rights & Responsibilities in Special Education, published by the NC Department of Public Instruction (for IDEA complaints).

The board encourages all individuals who believe that they have been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy or who have reliable information that another person has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy to report such conduct as soon as possible through the process provided in Section B below. The board takes seriously all reports of unlawful discrimination and harassment and directs school officials to take prompt action to investigate and remedy violations of this policy. The superintendent is responsible for ensuring that effective notice of this policy is provided to students, parents, employees, and all applicants for admission or employment.

A. Prohibited Behavior

Students, school system employees, volunteers, and visitors are expected to behave in a civil and respectful manner. The board expressly prohibits unlawful discrimination and harassment as defined below by students, employees, board members, volunteers, or visitors. “Visitors” includes parents and other family members and individuals from the community, as well as vendors, contractors, and other persons doing business with or performing services for the school system.

1. Discrimination

Discrimination is any act or failure to act, whether intentional or unintentional, by an employee or agent of the school system that unreasonably and unfavorably differentiates treatment of others based solely on one or more of the legally-protected characteristics listed in the first paragraph of this policy so as to interfere with or limit their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges offered by the school system’s education program.

2. Harassment

Harassment is deliberate, unwelcome conduct directed at another person or group of persons based on one or more of the legally protected characteristics listed in the first paragraph of this policy that creates a hostile environment or adversely affects a school system employee’s employment. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be motivated by animus, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when (1) the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a person’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by the school system or (2) the conduct is so severe or pervasive that an employee finds his or her working conditions to be abusive and a reasonable person in the employee’s position would conclude that the working conditions were abusive.

Examples of behavior that may constitute harassment include, but are not limited to, acts of disrespect, intimidation, or threats, such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs, derogatory epithets, comments, or slurs, imitating a person's disability-based limitations, mocking a person's accent, making fun of a person's religious garments, jewelry, or displays, exclusion from peer groups, extortion of money or possessions, implied or stated threats, assault, impeding or blocking movement, offensive touching, or any physical interference with normal work or movement, and visual insults, such as hate symbols or derogatory posters or cartoons. Harassment may occur through electronic means, such as through the Internet, email, text message, or video calls.

Petty slights, annoyances, simple teasing, offhand comments, or isolated incidents (unless extremely serious) are not harassment under this policy. Legitimate age-appropriate pedagogical techniques are not considered harassment, nor are reasonable performance management actions taken to direct and control how work is performed or to monitor and give feedback on work performance. The exercise of legitimate authority administered in a professional and constructive manner is not harassment under this policy.

3. Application of the Policy

This policy applies to behavior that takes place: (1) in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after school hours; (2) on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity; (3) at any bus stop; (4) during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity; (5) through the use of school system technological resources; (6) at any time or place when the individual is subject to the authority of school personnel; or (7) at any time or place when the behavior has a direct and immediate effect on maintaining order and discipline in the schools or has consequences in the workplace contributing to a hostile work environment.

This policy will not be construed to allow school officials to punish student expression or speech based on undifferentiated fear or apprehension of a disturbance or out of a desire to avoid the discomfort and unpleasantness that may accompany an unpopular viewpoint.

B. Reporting Discrimination or Harassment

1. Reporting Suspected Discrimination or Harassment

Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy or any third person who knows or suspects conduct that may constitute discrimination or harassment in violation of this policy should inform a school official designated in Section C below. Reports also may be made anonymously, including through the anonymous tip line.

2. Mandatory Reporting by School Employees

Any employee who witnessed or who has reliable information or reason to believe that another person may have been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy must report the offense immediately to an appropriate individual designated in Section C below. Any doubt about whether particular conduct is possible discrimination or harassment under this policy or any other policy of the board must be resolved in favor of reporting the conduct.

Employees who observe an incident of harassment are expected to intervene to stop the conduct in situations in which they have supervisory control over the perpetrator and it is safe to do so. If an employee knows of an incident involving discrimination or harassment and the employee fails to report the conduct or take proper action or knowingly provides false information in regard to the incident, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

3. Preliminary Inquiry

School officials may make a preliminary inquiry when a report is received to understand what occurred and to determine whether further action under this policy or otherwise is necessary.

C. Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment

1. Making a Complaint of Discrimination or Harassment

Any person who believes he or she is the victim of discrimination or harassment in violation of this policy, or any person who has witnessed or who has reliable information that another person has been subject to discrimination or harassment in violation of this policy, may request that school officials investigate and redress any such unlawful conduct by making a formal written complaint to any of the following persons:

- a. the principal or assistant principal of the school either the alleged victim or alleged perpetrator attends;
- b. the principal, assistant principal, or site supervisor at the location where either the alleged victim or alleged perpetrator is employed;
- c. the senior human resources official (or if the senior human resources official is the alleged perpetrator, the superintendent) if the alleged victim or alleged perpetrator is an employee or applicant for employment;
- d. the Section 504 coordinator or the ADA coordinator for claims of discrimination on the basis of a disability;
- e. the Title IX coordinator, as established in policy 1720/4030/7235, Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, for claims of discrimination on the basis of sex; or
- f. for claims of other forms of prohibited discrimination, the applicable civil rights coordinator as established in Section I of this policy.

If a written complaint alleges that the perpetrator is an employee, the school official receiving the complaint shall notify the senior human resources official without delay.

2. Addressing Complaints

A written complaint alleging that a student, employee, or applicant for employment has been discriminated against or harassed will be addressed in accordance with this policy.

A written complaint alleging that a person who is not a student, employee, or applicant for employment has been discriminated against or harassed will be addressed in accordance with the general process for resolving complaints provided in policy 1742/5060, Responding to Complaints, not this policy.

3. Time Period for Making a Complaint

Alleged discrimination or harassment should be reported as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after disclosure or discovery of the facts giving rise to the complaint. Complaints submitted after the

30-day period may be investigated; however, individuals should recognize that delays in reporting may significantly impair the ability of school officials to investigate and respond to such complaints.

D. School Officials' Response to Reports and Complaints of Discrimination or Harassment

1. Investigation

School officials shall investigate all formal written complaints received. Reports of discrimination or harassment that are not followed by a formal written complaint may be investigated when necessary to remedy violations of this policy and may be investigated even if the alleged victim does not seek action by school officials.

- a. The principal or designee or site supervisor will be the investigator when the alleged perpetrator is a student or third party. The senior human resources official or designee will be the investigator when the alleged perpetrator is an employee. The superintendent may determine that individual circumstances warrant the assignment of a different investigator.

Notwithstanding the above designations, (1) if the alleged perpetrator is the senior human resources official, the superintendent will be the investigator, and (2) if the alleged perpetrator is the superintendent or a member of the board, the board chair shall direct the board attorney to investigate, unless the board chair determines that outside counsel should be engaged to investigate.

- b. As applicable, the investigator shall immediately notify the Section 504, ADA, Title IX, or other relevant coordinator of the complaint, and, as appropriate, may request assistance from the coordinator in conducting the investigation.
- c. If the investigator, after interviewing the complaining party and/or the alleged victim and consulting with the board attorney, determines that the allegations submitted, even if factual, do not constitute discrimination or harassment as defined in this policy or policy 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities, school officials shall address the matter outside the scope of this policy. Information regarding the investigator's determination and any further avenues for addressing the complaint will be provided to the complaining party.
- d. Any investigation conducted must be impartial, prompt, and thorough. The investigator shall investigate the facts and circumstances related to the allegation(s) of discrimination or harassment and give the alleged perpetrator an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

The investigator shall consider all the evidence collected, the context in which the alleged incidents occurred, the age and maturity of the parties, and any other relevant circumstances and, in consultation with the board attorney as appropriate, shall determine whether the alleged act(s) constitutes a violation of this policy, policy 1730/4022/7231, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities, and/or any other board policy or expected standard of student or employee behavior.

- e. The complaint and investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible and consistent with law. Information may be shared only with individuals who need the information in order to investigate and address the complaint appropriately and those with a legal right to access the information.

2. Investigator's Findings

- a. If the investigator finds that discrimination or harassment occurred, the investigator shall take or recommend steps to address the discrimination or harassment. The investigator shall assign or recommend appropriate disciplinary consequences for the perpetrator and/or take or recommend other

reasonable measures to eliminate the discrimination or harassment, rectify any wrongful impacts, and prevent its recurrence.

b. If the investigator finds that the conduct did not violate this policy but violated policy 1735/4329/7311, Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited, or another board policy or expected standard of conduct, the investigator shall assign or recommend discipline or other action appropriate to the violation.

c. The investigator shall make a record of the evidence and findings of the investigation and the assigned or recommended discipline and/or other remedial action and provide a copy to the appropriate civil rights coordinator. If the investigator recommends a disciplinary consequence or remedial action that is beyond his or her authority, the investigator shall provide a copy of the record to the superintendent for further action.

d. The investigator shall inform the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator of the outcome of the investigation.

3. Steps to Reasonably End Discrimination or Harassment

a. The superintendent is responsible for taking or causing appropriate action to be taken in response to discrimination and harassment in violation of this policy. Appropriate action must include:

- i. reasonable, timely, age-appropriate corrective action intended to end the discrimination or harassment and prevent it from recurring;
- ii. as needed, reasonable steps to address the effects of the discrimination or harassment on the victim; and
- iii. as needed, reasonable steps to protect the victim from retaliation as a result of the complaint.

b. Appropriate steps to end discrimination and harassment may include, but are not limited to, separating the parties, providing counseling for the parties, and/or taking disciplinary action against a perpetrator determined to have violated this policy. The superintendent may take non-punitive measures to end or prevent instances of discrimination or harassment regardless of whether any individual has been found responsible for the discrimination or harassment. The superintendent also may implement or direct the implementation of classroom-wide, school-wide, or school system-wide responses such as additional staff training, harassment prevention programs, and other measures reasonably calculated to end the behavior, eliminate a hostile environment and its effects if one has been created, and prevent recurrence of the behavior.

c. The applicable civil rights coordinator shall encourage victims of discrimination and harassment to report any subsequent problems and may conduct follow-up inquiries as warranted to determine if there have been any new incidents of discrimination or harassment or any instances of retaliation.

E. Appeals

1. Appeals to the Superintendent

The alleged victim may appeal the investigator's decision to the superintendent (unless the alleged perpetrator is the superintendent, in which case the alleged victim may appeal directly to the board in accordance with the next subsection). The appeal must be submitted in writing within three business days of receiving the notice of the outcome of the investigation. The superintendent may review the documents, conduct any further investigation necessary, or take any other steps the superintendent determines to be appropriate in order to respond to the

complaint. The superintendent shall provide a written response within 10 business days after receiving the appeal, unless further investigation is needed.

2. Appeals to the Board

Student victims or their parents may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board in accordance with subsection E.5.a of policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure. Victims who are employees or applicants for employment may appeal the superintendent's decision to the board in accordance with subsection E.4.a of policy 1750/7220, Grievance Procedure for Employees.

3. Discipline Rights Provided by Law

Any student or employee subject to discipline for violating this policy will be accorded all rights provided by law.

F. Retaliation Prohibited

The board prohibits retaliation against any person for making a report or complaint of a violation of this policy, supporting someone for reporting or intending to report a violation of this policy, or participating in the investigation of a reported violation of this policy. No reprisals will be taken by the board against a complaining party or other individual who makes a good faith report of discrimination or harassment. Any person who is found to have engaged in retaliation will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance processes established in policies 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, and 1750/7220, Grievance Procedure for Employees. Acts of retaliation may also be subject to policy 1760/7280, Prohibition Against Retaliation.

G. Training and Programs

The board directs the superintendent to establish training and other programs that are designed to prevent discrimination and harassment and to foster an environment of understanding and respect for all members of the school community. Information about the prohibited conduct and grievance procedure in this policy and those in policies 1725/4035/7236, Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process, and 1726/4036/7237, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process, must be included in the training plan.

As funds are available, the board will provide students, employees, and volunteers who have significant contact with students with additional training regarding the board's efforts to address discrimination and harassment and will create programs to address these issues. The training or programs should (1) provide examples of behavior that constitute discrimination or harassment; (2) teach employees to identify groups that may be the target of discrimination or harassment; and (3) train school employees to be alert to locations where such behavior may occur, including locations within school buildings, at school bus stops, on cell phones, and on the Internet.

H. Records

The superintendent or designee shall maintain confidential records of complaints or reports of discrimination or harassment. The records must identify the names of all individuals accused of such offenses and the resolution of such complaints or reports. The superintendent also shall maintain records of training conducted and corrective action(s) or other steps taken by the school system to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

I Contacts for Inquiries

The superintendent has appointed individuals to coordinate the school system's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under federal nondiscrimination laws, including investigating any complaints communicated to school officials alleging noncompliance with those laws. Inquiries about the application of the nondiscrimination laws addressed

in this policy may be referred to the designated civil rights coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education or the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission.

The contact information for the Title IX coordinator can be found in policy 1720/4030/7235, Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex. The contact information for the other designated civil rights coordinators is as follows.

- a. The Section 504 Coordinator is: **Jermaine White**
Office Address: **601 S. Main Street**
PO Box 1029 Lillington, NC 27546
Email Address: **jwhite1@harnett.k12.nc.us**
Phone Number: **910-893-8151**
- b. The ADA Coordinator is: **April Hood**
Office Address: **1008 S. 11th Street**
PO Box 1029 Lillington, NC 27546

Email Address: **ahood1@harnett.k12.nc.us**
Phone Number: **910-893-8151**
- c. The Age Discrimination Coordinator is: **Virginia Taylor**
Office Address: **601 S. Main Street**
PO Box 1029 Lillington, NC 27546

Email Address: **vtaylor@harnett.k12.nc.us**

Phone Number: **910-893-8151**
- d. The Coordinator for Other Non-discrimination Laws is: **Virginia Taylor**
Office Address: **601 S. Main Street**
PO Box 1029 Lillington, NC 27546

Email Address: **vtaylor@harnett.k12.nc.us**
Phone Number: **910-893-8151**

Legal References: Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. 621 et seq., 34 C.F.R. pt. 110; Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq., 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 7905, 34 C.F.R. pt. 108; 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 II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq., 34 C.F.R. pt. 100; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq., 29 C.F.R. pt. 1604; Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, 38 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.; Racial Incidents and Harassment Against Students at Educational Institutions; Investigative Guidance, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (1994), available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/race394.html>; Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (April 2024), available at https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/enforcement-guidance-harassment-workplace?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=; G.S. 115C-407.15 through -407.18; 126-16; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0107; Parent Rights & Responsibilities in Special Education, (N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/parent-rights-handbook>

Cross References: Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex (policy 1720/4030/7235), Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process (policy 1725/4035/7236), Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process (policy 1726/4036/7237), Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities (policy 1730/4022/7231), Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited (policy 1735/4329/7311), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010),

Responding to Complaints (policy 1742/5060), Grievance Procedure for Employees (policy 1750/7220), Prohibition Against Retaliation (policy 1760/7280), Hearings Before the Board (policy 2500), Staff-Student Relations (policy 4040/7310), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

Adopted: December 7, 2020

Revised: June 24, 2021, July 10, 2023; August 5, 2024; May 5, 2025

Policy Code: 1720/4030/7235 Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex

The school system does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 and federal regulations to not discriminate in such a manner. This requirement extends to admission and employment. The board will not tolerate discrimination on the basis of sex, including any form of sexual harassment as that term is defined under Title IX, in any program or activity of the school system.

A. Inquiries About Title IX

The board has designated a Title IX coordinator to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under Title IX and its implementing regulations. Inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing federal regulations may be referred to the Title IX coordinator and/or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

The contact information for the Title IX coordinator is as follows.

The Title IX Coordinator is: **Courtney Blackburn**

Office Address: **601 S. Main St.
PO Box 1029
Lillington, NC 27546**

Email Address: **cblackburn@harnett.k12.nc.us**

Phone Number: **910-893-8151**

B. Resolution of Grievances

The board has established grievance procedures that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. Any person may report alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, other than sexual harassment, in a school system program or activity occurring against a person in the United States through the process provided in policy 1710/4020/7230, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law. The board has adopted additional means for reporting sexual harassment specifically. Any person may report alleged sexual harassment in a school system program or activity occurring against a person in the United States in accordance with policy 1725/4035/7236, Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process. Those who believe they have been sexually harassed may also file a formal complaint of sexual harassment in accordance with policy 1726/4036/7237, Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process, to initiate a prompt and equitable resolution through a formal investigation and adjudication or through an informal resolution process. The board encourages students, employees, and applicants to first make a report of sexual harassment in accordance with policy 1725/4035/7236 before filing a formal complaint.

C. Retaliation Prohibited

Retaliation against any person for the exercise of rights under Title IX or to interfere with those rights in any way is strictly prohibited and will subject the perpetrator to disciplinary action. The identity of any person who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment or who is the alleged perpetrator of sex discrimination or sexual harassment will be confidential unless otherwise required or permitted by law. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to policy 1710/4020/7230, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law.

D. Notice of the Board's Policy of Nondiscrimination Based on Sex

The superintendent is responsible for providing notice of the board's nondiscrimination policy to students and their parents or legal guardians, employees, and applicants for admission or employment. The superintendent shall also ensure that each principal or site supervisor makes a copy of this policy available to those persons. In addition, the following must be posted on the school system website and included in all student and employee handbooks: (1) a statement of the board's policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex; (2) contact information for the Title IX coordinator; and (3) a statement that Title IX inquiries may be referred to the Title IX coordinator or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.; 34 C.F.R. Part 106; Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board, 972 F.3d 586 (4th Cir. 2020)

Cross References: Title IX Sex Discrimination – Prohibited Conduct and Grievance Procedures (policy 1725/4035/7236)

Adopted: December 7, 2020,

Revised: November 14, 2022; August 5, 2024; April 7, 2025

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

It is expected that most students with disabilities be tested just as students without disabilities are tested. However, some students have needs as a result of their disabilities that require their nonparticipation in the Standard Course of Study and, for that reason, will not participate in the statewide student accountability standards. For these students, the IEP Team makes the determination that the students will be exempted from the statewide student accountability standards. Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide student accountability standards must be given the same opportunities as students without disabilities who score below Level III, including retesting, focused intervention, and waiver considerations.

- To the extent possible, all students with disabilities shall participate in the statewide student accountability standards for elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- Students with disabilities may be exempt from the statewide student accountability promotion standards by the Individualized Education Program Team, including the principal or school district representative if it is determined by the team that the students do not have the ability to participate in the State Standard Course of Study. However, they shall be enrolled in a functional curriculum and demonstrate acceptable outcomes on the alternate assessments. These students may receive a certificate of achievement or graduation certificate.
- All interventions/remediation and other opportunities, benefits, and resources that are made available to students without disabilities shall be made available to students with disabilities who participate in the student promotion standards. All services offered are in addition to the special education services provided to the student.

Questions or concerns related to Students with Disabilities should be referred to April Hood, Director of Programs for Exceptional Children, telephone: (910) 893-8151 or by email: ahood1@harnett.k12.nc.us.

TITLE IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and is the guideline to remove all unfair sex discrimination practices.

Questions or concerns related to Title IX should be directed to Courtney Blackburn, Direct Title IX and Employee Relations, by telephone: (910) 893-8151 or by email: cblackburn@harnett.k12.nc.us

Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in education programs.

Any individual who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of his/her major life functions may qualify for identification for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Identification and services are made available through the local school Assistance Team. Questions may be directed toward the local school principal or classroom teacher.

Questions or concerns related to Section 504 should be directed to Jermaine White, Student Services Coordinator, telephone: (910) 893-8151 or by email: jwhite1@harnett.k12.nc.us

An Assistant Superintendent has been appointed to hear cases dealing with non-compliance with Section 504 regulations. The office is located in the Board of Education Annex, 601 S. Main Street, Lillington, phone number: 910-893-8151. (Re: Federal Register Vol. 45, No. 92, May 9, 1980, Page 30939, Section 104.7 and 194.8).

ANTI-HARASSMENT STATEMENT

Harnett County Schools (HCS) acknowledges the dignity and worth of all students and employees and strives to create a safe, orderly, caring, and inviting school environment to facilitate student learning and achievement. HCS does not tolerate any form of harassment, including harassment based on disability, in any of its educational or employment activities. Anyone who has been the victim of acts of harassment or who has reliable information about others having been the victim of acts of harassment is encouraged to report those acts to Jermaine White, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, by email at jwhite1@harnett.k12.nc.us, or by telephone at 910.893-8151. HCS considers harassment a serious offense and is committed to promptly, thoroughly, and impartially investigating all reports of harassment. Individuals found to have violated HCS policy prohibiting harassment are subject to the following discipline: students may be suspended or expelled; employees may be dismissed, and volunteers may be removed from campus and face criminal charges. HCS is committed to eliminating harassment from its schools and encourages employees, students, parents, and volunteers to work together to prevent acts of harassment of any kind.

DECLARACIÓN EN CONTRA DEL HOASTIGAMIENTO

Las Escuelas del Condado de Harnett (HCS) reconocen la dignidad y el valor de todos los estudiantes y empleados, y se esfuerza por crear un ambiente escolar seguro, ordenado, atento y acogedor para facilitar el aprendizaje y el rendimiento de los estudiantes. HCS no tolera ninguna forma de hostigamiento, incluyendo el hostigamiento por discapacidad, en ninguna de sus actividades educativas o de empleo. Se le pide a cualquier persona que haya sido víctima de actos de hostigamiento, o que tenga información confiable acerca de que otros hayan sido víctima hostigamiento, a que reporte estos actos a Jermaine White, Asistente del Superintendente de Servicios Estudiantiles, por correo electrónico a

jwhite1@harnett.k12.nc.us o por teléfono al 910-893-8151. HCS considera que el hostigamiento es un delito grave, y se compromete a una investigación rápida, exhaustiva e imparcial de todas las denuncias de hostigamiento. Las personas que hayan violado la política de HCS que prohíbe el hostigamiento, están sujetos a la siguiente disciplina: los estudiantes pueden ser suspendidos o expulsados; los empleados pueden ser despedidos; y los voluntarios pueden ser removidos de la escuela y pueden enfrentar cargos criminales. HCS se ha comprometido a eliminar el hostigamiento de sus escuelas, y ánima a los empleados, estudiantes, padres, y voluntarios a que trabajen juntos para prevenir actos de hostigamiento de cualquier tipo.

STUDENT AND PARENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE Policy Code: 1740/4010

A. Options for Resolving Complaints

The board strives to resolve concerns and complaints of students and parents whenever possible. To this end, the board has provided opportunities for students and parents to express their concerns through processes established in board policies. Policy 1742/5060, Responding to Complaints, identifies these different processes, including a mechanism for resolving complaints in an informal manner.

While the board encourages resolutions of complaints through informal means, it recognizes that, at times, a formal process may be necessary for certain types of complaints or if the informal process did not produce satisfactory results. This policy provides a complaint procedure that may be used as described below.

Any parent or student who has questions about the options for proceeding with a complaint or concern may contact the principal or superintendent for further information and copies of all applicable board policies.

B. Definitions

1. Days

Days are working days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, vacation days, or holidays, as set forth in the school calendar. In counting days, the first day will be the first full working day following the receipt of the grievance. After May 1, time limits will consist of all weekdays (Monday – Friday) so that the matter may be resolved before the close of the school term or as soon thereafter as possible.

2. Final Administrative Decision

A final administrative decision is a decision of a school employee from which no further appeal to a school administrator is available.

3. Grievance

A grievance is a formal complaint regarding specific decisions made by school personnel that alleges that such decisions have adversely affected the person making the complaint. A grievance includes, but is not limited to, circumstances such as when a student or parent believes that board policy or law has been misapplied, misinterpreted, or violated. The term “grievance” does not include any matter for which the method of review is prescribed by law, for which there is a more specific board policy providing a process for addressing the concern, or upon which the board is without authority to act.

4. Grievant

The grievant is the parent, student, or group of parents or students submitting the grievance.

5. Parent

All references to parent include a student's parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or another caregiver adult authorized to enroll a student under policy 4120, Domicile or Residence Requirements.

C. Timeliness of Process

The number of days indicated at each step of the grievance process should be considered a maximum, and every effort should be made to expedite the process.

Failure by a school system official at any step to communicate a decision within the specified time limit will permit the grievant to appeal the grievance to the next step unless the official has notified the grievant of the delay and the reason for the delay, such as the complexity of the investigation or report. The official shall make reasonable efforts to keep the grievant apprised of progress being made during any period of delay. Delays that interfere with the exercise of the grievant's legal rights are not permitted.

Failure by the grievant at any step of the process to appeal a grievance to the next step within the specified time limit will be considered acceptance of the decision at the current step, unless the grievant has notified the appropriate school system official of a delay and the reason for the delay and the official has consented in writing to the delay.

D. General Requirements

1. No reprisals of any kind will be taken by the board or by an employee of the school system against any grievant or other student or employee because of his or her participation in a grievance filed and decided pursuant to this policy.
2. All meetings and hearings conducted pursuant to this policy will be private.
3. The board and school system officials will consider requests to hear grievances from a group of grievants, but the board and officials have the discretion to hear and respond to grievants individually.
4. The grievant may have a representative, including an attorney, at any stage of the grievance. However, if the grievant intends to be represented by legal counsel, he or she must notify the appropriate school official in advance so that school personnel also will have the opportunity to be represented by legal counsel. At any meeting or hearing during the grievance process, a student grievant may be accompanied by a parent as well as a representative.

E. Process for Grievance

1. Filing a Grievance

- a. Whenever a student or parent believes that he or she has been adversely affected by a decision of a school employee, the student or parent may file a grievance as provided in this policy.
- b. A grievance must be filed as soon as possible but no later than 30 days after disclosure or discovery of the facts giving rise to the grievance. For a grievance submitted after the 30 day period that claims a violation, misapplication or misinterpretation of state or federal law, the superintendent or designee shall determine whether the grievance will be investigated after considering factors such as the reason for the delay; the extent of the delay; the effect of the delay on the ability of the school system to investigate and respond to the complaint; and whether the investigation of the complaint is necessary to meet any legal obligations. However, students and parents should recognize that delays in filing a grievance may significantly impair the ability of the school system to investigate and respond effectively to such complaints.
- c. A student or parent who has a grievance must provide the following information in writing to the principal: (1) the name of the school system employee or other individual whose decision or action is at

issue; (2) the specific decision(s) or action(s) at issue; (3) any board policy, state or federal law, state or federal regulation, or State Board of Education policy or procedure that the parent or student believes has been misapplied, misinterpreted, or violated; and (4) the specific resolution desired. If there is not a specific decision or action at issue and no concern that state or federal law has been misapplied, misinterpreted, or violated, then the procedure established in policy 1742/5060 is appropriate, and the principal shall address the concern following that policy.

d. Even if the principal is the employee whose decision or action is at issue, the student or parent must submit the grievance first to the principal in order for the principal to address the issue within the formal process. If, however, the grievance claims that a state or federal law has been misapplied, misinterpreted, or violated, the student or parent may submit the grievance directly to the superintendent or designee.

e. If a student or parent wants to initiate a formal grievance regarding a decision by the superintendent that directly and specifically affects the student or parent, the general process described in this policy will be used, except that the grievance will be submitted to the assistant superintendent of human resources, who shall forward the grievance to the board chairperson.

2. Investigation

a. The principal shall schedule and hold a meeting with the grievant within five school days after the grievance has been filed with the principal.

b. The principal shall conduct any investigation of the facts necessary before rendering a decision.

3. Response by Principal

a. The principal shall provide a written response to the grievance within 10 days of meeting with the grievant. The response will include the principal's decision regarding resolution of the grievance and the basis for the decision. In responding, the principal may not disclose information about other students or employees that is considered confidential by law.

b. A copy of the grievance and the principal's response will be filed with the superintendent.

4. Response by Superintendent

a. If the grievant is dissatisfied with the principal's decision, the grievant may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The appeal must be made in writing within five days of receiving the principal's decision.

b. The superintendent may review the written documents and respond or the superintendent may schedule and hold a conference with the grievant, principal, and any other individuals the superintendent determines to be appropriate within five school days after receiving the appeal.

c. The superintendent shall provide a written response within 10 days after receiving the appeal. In responding, the superintendent may not disclose information about other students or employees that is considered confidential by law.

5. Appeal to the Board

If the grievant has alleged a violation of a specified federal or state law, federal or state regulation, State Board of Education policy or procedure, or local board of education policy or procedure, the grievant will have the right to appeal a final administrative decision to the board of education (see subsection E.5.a, Mandatory Appeals,

below). If a grievant has not alleged such specific violations, he or she may request a board hearing, which the board may grant at its discretion (see subsection E.5.b, Discretionary Appeals, below).

a. Mandatory Appeals

1) If the grievant is dissatisfied with the superintendent's response to his or her grievance and has alleged a violation of a specified federal or state law, federal or state regulation, State Board of Education policy or procedure, or local board of education policy or procedure, the grievant may appeal the decision to the board within five days of receiving the superintendent's response.

2) A hearing will be conducted pursuant to policy 2500, Hearings Before the Board.

3) The board will provide a final written decision within 30 days of receiving the appeal unless further investigation is necessary or the hearing necessitates that more time be taken to respond.

b. Discretionary Appeals

1) If the grievant is dissatisfied with the superintendent's response to his or her grievance but has not alleged a violation of a specified federal or state law, federal or state regulation, State Board of Education policy or procedure, or local board of education policy or procedure, then within five days of receiving the superintendent's response, the grievant may submit to the superintendent a written request for a hearing before the board of education.

2) If the full board will be meeting within two weeks of the request for a hearing, the board will decide at that time whether to grant a hearing. Otherwise, the board chairperson will appoint a three-person panel to review the request and determine whether to (1) deny the appeal; (2) review the superintendent's decision on the written record only; or (3) grant a hearing. The panel will report the decision to the board. The board may modify the decision of the panel upon majority vote at a board meeting.

3) If the board denies the appeal, the decision of the superintendent will be final and the grievant will be notified within five days of the board's decision.

4) If the board decides to grant a hearing, the hearing will be conducted pursuant to policy 2500.

5) The board will provide a final written decision within 30 days of the decision to grant an appeal, unless further investigation is necessary or the hearing necessitates that more time be taken to respond.

F. Notice

The superintendent or designee is responsible for providing effective notice to students, parents and school system employees of the procedures for reporting and investigating grievances.

G. Records

Appropriate records shall be maintained in accordance with state and federal law.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-45(c); 126-16; 150B-43 et seq.

Cross References: Responding to Complaints (policy 1742/5060), Hearings Before the Board (policy 2500), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series)

Issued: May 4, 2009

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FAMILY EDUCATIONAL
RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's educational records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the Harnett County School District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record (s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask Harnett County Schools to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should make a written request to the school principal, which clearly identifies the part of the record they want changed and specifies why it is inaccurate or misleading. If Harnett County Schools decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the Harnett County Schools as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement personnel); a person serving on the Harnett County Board of Education; a person or company with whom Harnett County Schools has contracted to perform a special task (such as a therapist, auditor, medical consultant, or attorney); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request from officials of another school district in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, Harnett County Schools will forward education records without consent from the parent or eligible student.

Schools may disclose directory information without consent. The District has designated the following as directory information: a student's name; address; telephone listing; photograph; date and place of birth; participation in officially recognized activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; grade level; diplomas, certification, and awards received; and most recent school or education institution attended by the student. Directory information does not include the telephone number and actual address of a student who is or whose parent is a participant in the North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program.

*** Any parent or eligible student may request that such directory information not be disclosed by submitting a written request to the principal of the school that the student attends. ***

As required by law, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of secondary school students shall be released, upon request, to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning. A parent or eligible student, however, may request that

this information not be released without prior written consent by submitting a written request to the principal of the school that the student attends.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Harnett County Schools to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202-4605

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Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Model Notice for Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Harnett County Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child’s education records. However, Harnett County Schools may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent unless you have advised the Harnett County Schools to the contrary in accordance with Harnett County Schools procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Harnett County Schools to include information from your child’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent’s prior written consent. Outside organizations include but are not limited to companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses, and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student’s information disclosed without their prior written consent. [Note: These laws are Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c).]

If you do not want Harnett County Schools to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child’s education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Harnett County Schools in writing by September 20, 2019. Harnett County Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports

- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user
- A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

ATTENDANCE

Policy Code: 4400

School attendance and class participation are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school.

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily. School administrators shall communicate attendance expectations to parents and guardians and work with students and their families to overcome barriers to attendance.

A. Attendance Records

School officials shall keep accurate records of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Students will be considered in attendance if present at least half of the instructional day on-site in the school or at a place other than the school attending an authorized school-related activity.

To be in attendance during remote instruction days (with the exception of the initial enrollment day), students must: (1) complete their daily assignments, either online or offline; and/or (2) have a daily check-in through two-way communication with (a) the homeroom teacher for grades K-5 or (b) for all other grade levels, each course teacher as scheduled. School officials shall communicate the attendance procedures to students and their families before the first day remote instruction begins.

B. Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Students are expected to be at school on time and to remain at school until dismissed. During the school day, students are expected to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class and to remain until the class ends.

When a student must be late to school or leave school early, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian should be presented upon the student's arrival at school. Tardies or early departures may be excused for any of the reasons listed below in Section C.

Any disciplinary consequences for unexcused tardiness or unexcused early departures from school or class will be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for such offenses. Consequences may not exceed a short-term suspension of two days.

C. Excused Absences

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a health care practitioner. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the local health officer or the State Board of Health or isolation or quarantine that is a required state or local control measure;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is party to the action or under subpoena as a witness;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent or legal guardian;
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal;
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary;
9. a minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and the student's parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty or inactive member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting; or
10. any other reason as approved by the board in a board resolution.

D. School-Related Activities

While recognizing the importance of classroom learning, the board also acknowledges that out-of-classroom, school-related activities can provide students with valuable experiences not available in the classroom setting. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school;
2. job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in G.S. 115C-47(34a);
3. school-initiated and -scheduled activities;
4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school; and
5. Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal.

In addition, students participating in disciplinary techniques categorized as in-school suspension will not be counted as absent.

E. Makeup Work

In the case of excused absences, short-term out-of-school suspensions, and absences under G.S. 130A-440 (for failure to submit a school health assessment form within 30 days of entering school), the student will be permitted

to make up his or her missed work. (See also policies 4110, Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, and 4351, Short-Term Suspension.) Assignments missed due to participation in school-related activities also are eligible for makeup by the student. The teacher shall determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

F. Unexcused Absences

The principal shall notify parents and take all other steps required by G.S. 115C-378 for excessive, unexcused absences.

Any school disciplinary consequences for unexcused absences will be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for such offenses. Consequences may not exceed a short-term suspension of two days.

G. Chronic Absenteeism

Because class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process, any absences, whether excused or unexcused, can have a negative impact on a student's academic achievement. Regular attendance must be prioritized within each school and encouraged throughout the community. School administrators shall monitor and analyze attendance data to develop and implement strategies for reducing chronic absenteeism. Such strategies should involve engaging students and parents, recognizing good and improved attendance, providing early outreach to families of students missing school, and identifying and addressing barriers to attendance.

H. Special Circumstances

1. Students with Chronic Health Problems

No penalties will be imposed for absences due to documented chronic health problems.

2. Students Experiencing Homelessness

For students experiencing homelessness (see board policy 4125, Homeless Students), school officials must consider issues related to the student's homelessness, such as a change of caregivers or nighttime residence, before taking disciplinary action or imposing other barriers to school attendance based on excessive absences or tardies.

3. Attendance Requirements for Extracurricular Activities

Absences may impact eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities. Principals shall inform students and parents of the applicable attendance standards for the various types of extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics. See also policy 3620, Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations.

Legal References: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, et seq G.S. 115C-47, -84.2, -288(a), -375.5, -378 to -383, -390.2(d), -390.2(l), -390.5, -407.5; -407.12; 130A-440; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0102, .0103, .0106; State Board of Education Policies ATND-000, -003.

Cross References: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students (policy 4023), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Immunization and Health Requirements for

School Admission (policy 4110), Homeless Students (policy 4125), Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Short-Term Suspension (policy 4351)

Other Resources: NC DPI Multi-Tiered System of Support Implementation Guide, available at <https://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=2957986#anchor>

Adopted:

Revised: September 10, 2018, June 24, 2021, November 14, 2022; November 15, 2023

STUDENT SEARCHES

Policy Code: 4342

School officials have the authority to conduct reasonable searches of students and to seize students' unauthorized materials for the purposes of maintaining a safe, orderly environment and upholding standards of conduct established by the board or school. Any searches or seizures must be conducted in accordance with the standards described in this policy and any other applicable legal requirements. All school officials carrying out a search or seizure are expected to be knowledgeable about the legal rights of students and the appropriate procedures for conducting the search or seizure. A search must be justified at its inception, permissible in scope, and conducted using methods that are narrowly tailored to be minimally intrusive. School officials shall make reasonable, good faith efforts to investigate allegations of misconduct before a student search is conducted.

This policy applies to searches conducted on school grounds, in school facilities, or at school-sponsored events.

Policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, not this policy, applies to the search of school system-owned technological resources and the data located on school system-owned electronic equipment.

A. Searches Based on Individualized Reasonable Suspicion

A student or the student's possessions may be searched when a school official has reasonable suspicion that the search will turn up evidence that the particular student has violated or is violating a specific law or school rule. This reasonable suspicion must be based upon specific and articulable facts, which have been acquired through reliable and/or corroborated information from employees, students, law enforcement officers, or other credible sources, or upon visual or other evidence (e.g., the smell of alcohol or marijuana, an alert from a metal detector or drug dog) viewed in light of the totality of the circumstances and the school official's professional judgment. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search, and the methods used to conduct the search must be narrowly tailored to be minimally intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Reasonable suspicion is not required if a student freely and voluntarily consents to the search of his or her person or possessions.

In accordance with the standards described above, the board authorizes the following types of searches based on reasonable suspicion.

1. Searches of Personal Effects

School officials may search a student's desk, locker, and/or personal effects, including but not limited to purses, book bags, and clothing (for example, coats or jackets) not currently being worn by the student. Policy 4318, Use of Wireless

Communication Devices, addresses the circumstances under which searches of student cell phones and other electronic devices may be conducted.

2. Searches of Motor Vehicles

School officials may search the interior of a student's motor vehicle.

3. "Pat-down" Searches

A school official may conduct a frisk or "pat-down" search of a student's person. The search must be conducted in private by a school official with an adult witness present. Both the school official conducting the search and the adult witness must be the same sex as the student.

4. More Intrusive Personal Searches

More intrusive personal searches are discouraged and are to be used only in very limited circumstances. A personal search is more intrusive when it extends beyond a student's personal effects and outer clothing and potentially exposes intimate body parts and/or undergarments. Such intrusive personal searches will be permissible only if: (1) the school official has reasonable suspicion that a search of a particular student will yield dangerous contraband (e.g., drugs or weapons); and (2) the school official has reasonable suspicion that the student has hidden the contraband in his or her undergarments. This search must be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex as the student, with an adult witness of the same sex present, and only with the prior approval of the superintendent or designee, unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay that might be caused by following these procedures. Body cavity searches and searches that require a student to completely disrobe are strictly prohibited.

5. Metal Detector Searches

Except as provided in Section B.2, below, a metal detector may be used to search a student's person and/or personal effects. The search must be conducted by a school official and will be done in private, when feasible.

B. Suspicionless General Searches

In an effort to maintain a safe, drug-free, and weapon-free learning environment, school officials may conduct certain types of general, suspicionless searches in the schools. All general searches must be conducted in a minimally-intrusive, nondiscriminatory manner (e.g., all students in randomly selected classrooms, every third individual entering a school-sponsored extracurricular activity) and may not be used to single out a particular individual or category of individuals. The searches must be conducted in accordance with standardized procedures established by the superintendent or designee. Absent exigent circumstances (e.g., a report of a weapon on campus), prior to conducting general searches, school administrators must: (1) demonstrate to the superintendent or designee the need for general searches based upon a pattern or expectation of violence, drug activity, or disruption; and (2) provide written notice to students and parents of the school policy and/or procedures governing general searches, but not of specific times when or places where searches will be conducted.

When conducted in accordance with the standards described above and any corresponding procedures, the board authorizes the following types of general, suspicionless searches.

1. Searches of Desks and Lockers

School officials may conduct routine searches of student desks and lockers. Student desks and lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. However, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their desks and lockers. Student desks and lockers may not be used to store illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials.

A student's personal effects found within a desk or locker, such as a backpack, gym bag, or purse, may be searched only in accordance with the guidelines for individualized searches of personal effects described in Section A, above.

2. Point-of-Entry Metal Detector Searches

Due to the increasing problem of weapons in schools, school officials may use metal detectors to conduct general point-of-entry searches of students and other persons for weapons.

3. Use of Trained Dogs

With the prior approval of the superintendent, and in conjunction with local law enforcement, school officials may use trained dogs (canines) to locate illegal materials. All dogs must be accompanied by a certified and authorized trainer who is responsible for the dog's actions and who is able to verify the dog's reliability and accuracy in sniffing out illegal material. Trained dogs may sniff lockers, desks, book bags, motor vehicles, and other inanimate objects. Dogs may not be used to sniff students or other persons under any circumstances. No students should be present during a dog search. Before a search occurs in a classroom, students will first be moved to a location outside the classroom.

C. Seized Items

Any illegal contraband seized by school officials must be promptly turned over to the proper law enforcement authorities.

D. Failure to Cooperate

A student's failure to cooperate with a reasonable search or seizure as provided in this policy will be considered a violation of the expected standard of behavior, and will subject the student to appropriate consequences.

Any person who is not a student who refuses to permit a general metal detector search of his or her person and/or belongings at the point-of-entry to a school-sponsored activity may be denied entry to the activity.

E. Notice

School principals shall take reasonable steps to provide notice of this policy to students and parents at the start of each school year.

Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. IV; New Jersey v. T.L.O., 469 U.S. 325 (1985), Safford United School District #1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 (2009); G.S. 115C-47, -288, -307, -390.2, -391.2

Cross References: Technology Acceptable Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302), Use of Wireless Communication Devices (policy 4318), School Level Investigations (policy 4340)

Adopted: January 11, 1988

Revised: January 10, 1994; October 4, 2004; March 29, 2010; September 10, 2018; December 4, 2023

Policy Code: 5026/7250 Smoking and Tobacco Products

The board of education promotes the health and safety of all students and staff and the cleanliness of all school facilities. The board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, in or on any

other school property owned or operated by the school board, or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff, and school visitors. To this end, and to comply with state and federal law, the board adopts this tobacco-free policy that prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products as follows. For the purposes of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means any product that contains tobacco and is intended for human consumption. The term "tobacco product" also includes alternative nicotine products (noncombustible products that contain nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, but do not contain tobacco and are intended for human consumption whether chewed, absorbed, dissolved, ingested, or by other means), consumable products (nicotine liquid solutions or other materials containing nicotine that is depleted as a vapor product is used), vapor products (noncombustible products that employ a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat consumable products) including electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic cigarillos, and electronic pipes, and components of vapor products.

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

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

Cross References: Tobacco Products - Students (policy 4320)

Adopted: 12/05/2004

Revised: 01/12/2004; 10/27/2008; 04/08/2013; 12/07/2015; 11/15/2023; 11/4/2024

Policy Code: 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use

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 learning and teaching. Use of school system technological resources for commercial gain or profit is prohibited. Student personal use of school system technological resources for amusement or entertainment is also prohibited unless approved for special situations by the teacher or school administrator. Because some incidental and occasional personal use by employees is inevitable, the board permits infrequent and brief personal use by employees so long as it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with school system business, and is not otherwise prohibited by board policy or procedure.

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

2. Unless authorized by law to do so, users may not make copies of software purchased by the school system. Under no circumstance may software purchased by the school system be copied for personal use.
3. Users must comply with all applicable laws, board policies, administrative regulations, and school standards and rules, including those relating to copyrights and trademarks, confidential information, and

public records. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incidents of plagiarism, as stated in the Code of Student Conduct.

4. Users must follow any software, application, or subscription services terms and conditions of use.
5. No user of technological resources, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications, may engage in creating, intentionally viewing, accessing, downloading, storing, printing, or transmitting images, graphics (including still or moving pictures), sound files, text files, documents, messages, or other material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, pornographic, harassing, abusive, or considered to be harmful to minors.
6. Users must not circumvent fire walls. The use of anonymous proxies to circumvent content filtering is prohibited.
7. Users may not install or use any Internet-based file sharing program designed to facilitate sharing of copyrighted material.
8. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).
9. Users must respect the privacy of others.
 - a. Students must not reveal any personally identifying, private, or confidential information about themselves or fellow students when using email, chat rooms, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication. Such information includes, for example, a person's home address or telephone number, credit or checking account information, or social security number. For further information regarding what constitutes personal identifying information, see policy [4705/7825](#), Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information.
 - b. School employees must not disclose on school system websites or web pages or elsewhere on the Internet any personally identifiable, private, or confidential information concerning students (including names, addresses, or pictures) without the written permission of a parent or guardian or an eligible student, except as otherwise permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or policy [4700](#), Student Records.
 - c. Users may not forward or post personal communications without the author's prior consent.
 - d. Students may not use school system technological resources to capture audio, video, or still pictures of other students and/or employees in which such individuals can be personally identified, nor share such media in any way, without consent of the students and/or employees and the principal or designee. An exception will be made for settings where students and staff cannot be identified beyond the context of a sports performance or other public event or when otherwise approved by the principal.
10. Users may not intentionally or negligently damage computers, computer systems, electronic devices, software, computer networks, or data of any user connected to school system technological resources. Users may not knowingly or negligently transmit computer viruses or self-replicating messages or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance, including by streaming audio or video for non-instructional purposes. Users may not disable antivirus programs installed on school system-owned or issued devices.

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

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

C. Restricted Material on the Internet

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

D. Privacy

Students, employees, visitors, and other users have no expectation 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.

The school system may, without notice, (1) monitor, track, and/or log network access, communications, and use; (2) monitor and allocate files server space; and (3) access, review, copy, store, delete, or disclose the content of all user files, regardless of medium, the content of electronic mailboxes issued by the school system, and system outputs, such as printouts, at any time for any lawful purpose. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to, maintaining system integrity, security, or functionality, ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations, protecting the school system from liability, and complying with public records requests. School system personnel shall monitor online activities of individuals who access the Internet via a school-owned device. 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. Each principal may establish rules for his or her school site as to whether and how other personal technology devices (including, but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) may be used on campus. Students' devices are governed also by policy [4318](#), Use of Wireless Communication Devices. Use of personal technology devices is also subject to 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).

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.

H. Consequences

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

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

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

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

Adopted: January 4, 1999

Revised: September 8, 2003, October 3, 2005, July 7, 2009, July 13, 2011, February 22, 2012, June 30, 2015, May 14, 2018, November 14, 2022; May 6, 2024; November 4, 2024; May 5, 2025

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Students enrolled in Harnett County Schools will have access to several web-based resources that will enhance their educational experience. Examples of such resources are Google Apps (including Gmail), Edmodo (www.edmodo.com), DropBox (www.dropbox.com), and EverNote (www.evernote.com).

Some websites require that children under 13 years of age have parental consent for membership in these sites. YOUR SIGNATURE OF THE STUDENT HANDBOOK INDICATES YOUR CONSENT FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE MEMBERSHIP IN THE WEBSITES THAT ARE APPROVED AND ENDORSED BY HARNETT COUNTY SCHOOLS. (The approved list can be found on the Harnett County Schools website.) Classroom teachers may seek consent for other websites not covered under this agreement. Such consent will be sought on a case-by-case basis by the individual teacher. Each parent/guardian will be offered the opportunity to “opt out” of such resources.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH FOR YOUR CHILD TO HAVE MEMBERSHIP IN THESE APPROVED SITES, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL.

I DO NOT wish for my child to participate in any online web resources that are approved by Harnett County Schools.

Student's Name

Homeroom Teacher

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

NETWORK SECURITY

Policy Code: 6524

The school system computers, networks, and other technological resources support the educational and administrative functions of the school system. Because employees and students depend on these systems to assist with teaching and learning and because sensitive and confidential information may be stored on these systems, system integrity and security is of utmost importance.

A. NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY

The school system information technology systems are valuable assets that must be protected. To this end, school technology personnel shall evaluate each information technology asset and assign protective controls that are commensurate with the established value of such assets. Appropriate security measures must be in place to protect all information technology assets from accidental or unauthorized use, theft, modification, or destruction and to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of restricted information. Network security measures must include an information technology system disaster recovery process. Audits of security measures must be conducted annually.

All personnel shall ensure the protection and security of information technology assets that are under their control.

B. SECURITY AWARENESS

The technology director or designee shall provide employees with information to enhance awareness regarding technology security threats and to educate them about appropriate safeguards, network security, and information security.

C. MALWARE PROTECTION

Malware detection programs and practices must be implemented throughout the school system. The superintendent or designee is responsible for ensuring that the school system network includes current software to prevent the introduction or propagation of computer malware.

D. TRAINING FOR USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Users should be trained as necessary to use technological resources effectively and in a manner that maintains the security of the network infrastructure and ensures compliance with state and federal law and regulations. Such training should include information related to remote access, virus protection, the state student information, and instructional improvement system applications, network and information security, and other topics deemed necessary by the superintendent or technology director. Training may be conducted as part of the technology-related professional development program (see policy 3220, Technology in the Educational Program).

E. ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

Access to the school system's information technology assets will be controlled and managed to ensure that only authorized devices/persons have access.

1. User ID and Password

All users of information technology systems must be properly identified and authenticated before being allowed to access such systems. The combination of a unique user identification and a valid password is the minimum requirement for granting access to information technology systems. Depending on the operating environment, information involved, and exposure risks, additional or more stringent security practices may be required as determined by the superintendent or technology director. The technology director or designee shall establish password management capabilities and procedures to ensure the security of passwords.

2. Student Information System

The technology director or designee shall ensure that all school system computers with access to the state student information system application pursuant to State Board of Education Policy SBOP-018 adhere to relevant standards and requirements established by the State Board of Education, including provisions related to the user identification, password, and workstation security standards. Employees must follow such standards when using any computer to access the student information system, including when using the employee's personal computer.

3. Remote Access

The superintendent and technology director may grant remote access to authorized users of the school system's computer systems. The technology director or designee shall ensure that such access is provided through secure, authenticated, and carefully managed access methods.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-523, -524; State Board of Education Policy SBOP-018

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Technology in the Educational Program (policy 3220), Technology Acceptable Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Internet Safety (policy 3226/4205), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Use of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies (policy 6520)

Other References: State of North Carolina Statewide Information Security Manual (Enterprise Security and Risk Management Office), available at <http://it.nc.gov/document/statewide-information-security-manual>

Adopted: July 9, 2009

Revised: July 13, 2011; February 4, 2019

USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Policy Code: 4318

The board recognizes that cellular phones have become an important tool through which people communicate with their children. Therefore, students are permitted to possess such devices on school property so long as such devices are not activated, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day or as otherwise directed by school rules or school personnel. Wireless communication devices include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, electronic devices with internet capability, paging devices, two-way radios, and similar devices.

A. AUTHORIZED USE

Administrators may authorize individual students to use wireless communication devices for personal purposes when there is a reasonable need for such communication. Teachers and administrators may authorize individual students to use the devices for instructional purposes provided that they supervise the students during such use.

Although use generally is permitted before and after school, use of cellular phones and other wireless communication devices may be prohibited on school buses when noise from such devices interferes with the safe operation of the buses. In addition, elementary and middle school students who participate in after-school programs are prohibited from using wireless communication devices for the duration of such programming.

B. CONSEQUENCES FOR UNAUTHORIZED USE

School employees may immediately confiscate any wireless communication device that is on, used, displayed, or visible in violation of this policy. Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, confiscated wireless communication devices will be returned only to the student's parent or guardian.

The disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy will be consistent with section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for violations of this policy. The following factors should be considered when determining appropriate consequences whether the wireless communication devices was used: (1) to reproduce images of tests, to obtain unauthorized access to school information, or to assist students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates any school board policy, administrative regulation or school rule; (2) to bully or harass other students (3) to send illicit text messages (4) to take and/or send illicit photographs; or (5) In any other manner that would make more severe disciplinary consequences appropriate.

C. LIABILITY

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their wireless communication devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of a cellular phone or any other personal wireless communication device.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -390.2

Cross References: School Plan for Management of Student Behavior (policy 4302) Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Disruptive Behavior (policy 4315) Student Searches (policy 4342)

Adopted: July 7, 2009

Revised: September 10, 2018

Parents Rights to Know:

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act, the Harnett County Schools would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher
 - o Has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

- o Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived, and
- o Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teacher's and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact your child's principal directly.

Student Health

Health Assessment

Within 30 calendar days of the first day of school entry, all kindergarten students and all students entering public schools for the first time, regardless of grade level, must provide to the principal a completed Health Assessment Transmittal (HAT) form pursuant to G. S. 130A-440.

- A student who fails to meet this requirement will not be permitted to attend school until the completed health assessment has been presented.
- The assessment must include a medical history and physical examination with screening for vision and hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis.
- The health assessment must be conducted no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry. The health assessment shall be conducted by a physician licensed to practice medicine, a physician's assistant as defined in G.S. 90-18.1(a), a certified nurse practitioner, or a public health nurse meeting the Department's Standards for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Screening.
- Exceptions to the health assessment requirement will be made only for religious exemption.

The NC Health Assessment Transmittal form may be downloaded from HCS website- available in English and Spanish.

Immunizations

North Carolina requires immunizations for every child present in the state (listed below). Every parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis is responsible for ensuring that his or her child receives the required immunizations. Proof (e.g. immunization record) of the immunizations required for entry into pre-K, Kindergarten, and 7th grade must be submitted by the parent/guardian to the school within 30 calendar days of attendance. Students who do not comply with this regulation will not be allowed to attend school until the designated, age-appropriate immunization requirements are met, and the immunization record is submitted.

You may contact your child's school nurse or visit: <http://www.immunize.nc.gov/schools/k-12.htm>

Requirements for Initial Entry – Kindergarten

- Within 30 calendar days of his or her first day of school attendance in the school system, each student must show evidence of age-appropriate vaccination in accordance with state law and regulation, including the following vaccines:
- Varicella – 2 doses- *The 2nd dose is now required before entering school for the first time.*
- Polio- 4 doses-*The fourth dose must be administered after the 4th birthday. 3 doses if the third dose was administered after the 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the 2nd dose.*
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella- 2 doses of MMR- *The second dose must have been given after 12 months of age.*
- Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus (Tdap)- 5 doses. *If the 4th dose was given after the 4th birthday, the 5th dose is not required.*
- Hepatitis B – 3 doses - the third dose must not have been given before 24 weeks of age.
- Haemophilus influenza Type b (Hib) 3-4 Doses-Not required if 5th birthday has passed.

Additional Requirements – Student entering 7th Grade (Tdap and MCV)

- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/Whooping Cough) – One dose is required for individuals who have not previously received it and are entering 7th grade or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.
- Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV) – One dose is required for individuals who have not previously received it and are entering grade 7 or by 12 years of age, whichever comes first.

Recommended Immunizations – All children, according to CDC guidelines

- Influenza – 1 dose per year
- Hepatitis A - 2 doses
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) Gardasil 9 – 3 doses

Certificate of Immunization

- Evidence of immunizations must be shown in the form of a certificate furnished by a licensed physician or by the health department. A student who received immunizations in a state other than North Carolina must present an official certificate that meets the immunization requirements of G.S. 130A-154(b).
- Principals are required to refuse admittance to any child whose parent or guardian does not present a medical certificate of proper immunizations within the allotted time. Additional days may be allowed in order to obtain required immunizations if requested in writing from a physician or according to vaccine schedules as defined by CDC.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility

- Submit proof of immunizations (record) within 30 calendar days of school entry to the principal.

Health Conditions

It is our goal to identify and safely care for students with acute and chronic health conditions while at school. A health history form should be completed annually at the beginning of each school year and will be reviewed by staff. Parents/legal guardians must contact the school nurse if an individualized health plan and/or emergency action plan needs to be developed and implemented.

Medication administration authorization forms are available for students needing daily, as needed, and/or emergency medications administered during the school day. Parents/legal guardians are responsible for having the medication form completed by the health care provider and supplying the medication and/or supplies to the school. Please contact the school nurse or staff for health forms and if additional information or assistance is needed.

Garrett's Law

Garrett's Law mandates that schools provide parents/legal guardians with information about meningococcal meningitis, influenza, and the human papillomavirus (HPV) and vaccines that protect against these diseases. This information may be found on the district web page under Health Services and is always available from the school nurse. Students and staff are reminded throughout the school year on communicable disease preventions measures and protective practices. Good handwashing, receiving age appropriate immunizations, staying home when ill, and complying with medical treatments/medications as ordered by the healthcare provider are all key components in prevention of communicable diseases.

Student Illness

It is sometimes difficult to know when to keep an ill student home from school. The following guidelines are available to assist in this decision. A student who is ill needs to be away from school to allow for rest, proper recovery, and to also prevent the spread of illness to other students and staff. A visit to a healthcare provider may also be needed for proper evaluation and treatment. Parents/legal guardians will be called and are responsible for picking up students who present or become ill at school.

Temporary exclusion is recommended when the child has any of the following conditions:

1. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
2. The illness results in need for care that is greater than staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
3. A severely ill appearance –this could include lethargy/lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or having a quickly spreading rash.

Updated Guidelines for Inclusion/Exclusion from School

Adapted from: Aronson, S.S., T. R. Shope, eds. 2017. Managing Infectious Diseases in child care and schools: A quick Reference Guide, pp. 43-48. 4th Edition. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics.

Condition	When to keep a child home / Exclude from school
Fever	Temperature 101°F or greater
Diarrhea	<u>Exclude if:</u>

	Bowel movements (stool) is not contained in the diaper, for diapered children • Diarrhea is causing “accidents” for toilet trained children • Stool frequency exceeds 2 stools above normal for that child during the school day • Stool contains blood or mucus
Vomiting	Vomiting more than two (2) times in the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-infectious condition and the child remains adequately hydrated.
Rash	A visit to healthcare provider is required for rashes that are blistered, draining, or appear infectious. Exclude rash with fever or signs/symptoms of infection and/or illness until the primary care provider has determined that the illness is not an infectious disease.
Conjunctivitis (Pinkeye)	Conjunctivitis (pink eye) may be thought of as a cold in the eye. Exclusion is no longer required for this condition.
Impetigo	This condition requires medical treatment. Exclude if the child has not been treated after notifying family at the end of the prior school day. (Note: if lesions can be covered, exclusion is not necessary before the end of the day)
MRSA (methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus)	Child with lesions suspicious of MRSA must see a healthcare provider for proper diagnosis and treatment. Exclude if child has not been treated if MRSA is confirmed. Lesions must be kept covered while at school. NCHSAA guidelines must be followed for student athletes diagnosed with MRSA. Note: MRSA carriers should not be excluded
Pediculosis (head lice)	Students with head lice need to receive treatment. Exclude if child had not been treated after notifying the family at the end of the prior school day. Exclusion is not necessary before the end of the school day
Streptococcal Infection – Strep throat, Scarlet fever, etc.	Strep infection requires a prescription medication. Exclude until the child has had two doses of antibiotic. (Note: one dose may be taken the day of exclusion and the second before returning the next day)
Varicella (chickenpox)	An evaluation by a healthcare provider is needed to ensure accurate diagnosis. Exclude until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually, 6 days after onset of rash and no new lesions have appeared for at least 24 hours.
Abdominal pain	Exclude if abdominal pain continues for more than two hours or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms of illness.
Active Tuberculosis	Exclude until the child’s primary doctor or local health department states the child is on appropriate treatment and can return.
Cough	Exclude if cough associated with fever, rapid or difficult breathing, wheezing, or cyanosis (blueness of skin or mucus membranes).
Fifth Disease	Exclude if contagious. Usually safe to return to school once the rash appears.
Hepatitis A virus infection	Exclude until one week after onset of illness or jaundice if the child’s symptoms are mild or as directed by the health department. (Note: Health department staff will investigate to ensure all who are exposed receive proper treatment)
Measles	Exclude until five days after the onset of rash
Mumps	Exclude until after five days after onset of parotid gland swelling
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Exclude until five days of appropriate antibiotic treatment.
Ringworm	Treatment with antifungal medication is required. Excluded if child has not been treated after notifying the family at the end of the prior school day. (Note: Exclusion is not necessary before the end of the school day)
Rubella	Exclude until 7 days after rash appears.

Medication Administration at School

Please make every effort to give your child medication at home. School staff may administer medication, prescription, and non-prescription (over the counter), only upon receiving the HCS medication form completed and signed by a healthcare provider and the parent/legal guardian. Non-prescription medication should be in the original manufacturer’s container and unopened.

Provisions are available for students to self-administer emergency and/or rescue medications. However, medications classified as narcotic, stimulant, or controlled substance may not be self-administered or carried at school by any student at any grade level. Medications for ADHD/ADD that are classified as a controlled substance must be kept, stored, and given to your child only by school personnel trained by the school nurse. Self-administration of some over-the-counter medication may be allowed and must include parent/guardian permission with the proper physician signed forms. The parent/legal guardian is responsible for bringing the medication to school and for picking up any remaining unused medication. Unclaimed medication will be properly disposed, according to the medication procedure.

Individual Health Plans (IHP) / Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

The Individual Health Plan (IHP) / Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is valid for one school year. These plans are available on the HCS webpage under the “Health Services” tab. Plans are available to address concerns such as asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis, seizures,

sickle cell anemia, cardiac, etc. You can also contact your child's school nurse by email on this page. Parents/legal guardians are responsible for notifying school staff of changes in their child health status, condition, or treatments.

Students with Special Health Care Needs / Skilled Procedures

Forms and health plans are also available for students with special health care needs requiring procedures, treatment, and/or medications to be administered at school. The parent/legal guardian is responsible for providing medications and/or supplies needed during the school day. These forms and plans are available on our district webpage under Health Services or from school staff. Parents/legal guardians are responsible for notifying school staff of changes in their child health status, condition, or treatments.

Screening

Your child may participate in screenings in an effort to identify suspected barriers to learning. Screenings may include vision, dental, blood pressure, height/weight, nutritional, and health status as deemed appropriate. Our audiologist, with the assistance of trained staff, conducts hearing screenings for students who are referred and routinely for all students in first grade. If your child is identified to need further evaluation by another medical professional, you will be notified by means of a written referral. Parents/legal guardians are responsible for responding to the referral by seeking care as appropriate from an appropriate health care provider. The school nurse will follow up on all screening referrals. Please contact the school nurse or social worker if you need assistance in securing care for your child.

Student Health Advocacy / Resources

The school nurse is an advocate for your child's health, safety, and well-being in the academic setting. Please contact your child's school nurse for questions, assistance, and resources.

Parents may choose to enroll their student(s) in the Voluntary Student Accident Insurance Program. To purchase coverage directly online go to <https://www.kandkinsurance.com/sites/K12Voluntary/Pages/Home.aspx>

Student Health

Health History – All Students

Student Name:		Parent	
DOB:		Legal Guardian	
School		Cell Phone	
:		Work Phone	
School Year:		Home Phone	
☐ Bus _____		Alt. Contact: Ph. No.:	
Grade _____ Homeroom Teacher:			
Health Insurance for Student: ☐ Medicaid ☐ HealthChoice ☐ Private Insurance ☐ No Health Insurance			
<i>Please check any/all boxes below regarding your child's health condition(s). This information will be shared with appropriate school staff to better care for your child during the school hours.</i>			
☐ My child does not have a current medical condition.			
☐ My child has suffered a head injury/concussion during the past year.			
Please check medical conditions(s) your child has NOW:		List all medications your child takes NOW:	Medication(s) to be given at school this year
☐ ADHD			
☐ Allergic to: Wasp Beesting Mosquito			☐ Epinephrine ☐ antihistamine
☐ Allergic to: _____ Food			☐ Epinephrine ☐ antihistamine
☐ Allergic to Latex			☐ Epinephrine ☐ antihistamine
☐ Allergic to _____ Medicine			
Allergic to Seasonal / Environmental: pollen dust cat dog smoke		☐ Zyrtec ☐ Claritin ☐ Allegra	

	☐ Nasal Spray	
☐ Asthma	Inhaler: ☐ Preventive ☐ Rescue ☐ Nebulizer Used: _____	☐ Rescue inhaler needed for PE ☐ Nebulizer needed at school
☐ Diabetes	☐ diet ☐ oral med. ☐ Insulin ☐ pump	☐ diet ☐ glucometer ☐ insulin ☐ pump
☐ Heart Condition, describe:		
☐ Sickle Cell ☐ Trait Only		
☐ Seizures / Epilepsy	☐ Diastat ☐ Midazolam ☐ Oral Medication: _____	☐ Diastat ☐ Midazolam
Date of last seizure: _____		
☐ Stomach Problems		
☐ Reflux ☐ IBS ☐ Crohn's Other: _____		
☐ Hearing Problems	☐ Deaf: R L ☐ Hearing Aid: R L ☐ FM System	
☐ Vision Problems	☐ Glasses ☐ Best Correction ☐ Contacts ☐ Visually Impaired ☐ Blind: R L ☐ Color Blind	
Other Medical Conditions:		
Special Diet Needs at School <i>See school nurse for required Diet Order form (to be signed by healthcare provider)</i> Diet modifications: _____ _____ Reason for modifications: _____ _____ _____	Special Devices ☐ Wheelchair ☐ Walking Aid -describe: _____ _____ ☐ Special lift device (bathroom assistance) ☐ Other: _____ _____ _____	Skilled Procedures <i>See school nurse for Skilled Procedure(s) Form (to be signed by Healthcare provider)</i> ☐ Tube Feeding ☐ Catheterization ☐ Self ☐ Staff ☐ Tracheostomy Care ☐ Suction Mach. ☐ Ileostomy ☐ Colostomy ☐ Other, please describe: _____ _____ _____
My child has a medical condition which substantially limits one or more bodily functions that may impact a major life function. I would like to pursue 504 eligibility accommodations for my child. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination against any individual on the basis of a disability.		
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: Date: / /		

How to Sign Up for Campus Parent and Campus Student:

Your child's school will provide an Activation Key. Use the Activation Key to create your own user account.

Parents/guardians will only need one account for all children in the same school district.

1. If using the Campus Parent mobile app, open the app and search for your District Name and State. Skip to Step 5. 2. If using a web browser, visit infinitecampus.com and click Login at the top right.
3. Search for your District Name and State. Select your district from the list.
4. Click Parent/Student and then click Campus Parent. 5. If you have received an Activation Key, click New User (if not, contact your school to obtain one).
6. Enter your Activation Key and then Submit.
7. Enter a Username and Password and click Submit.

Cindy Gordon

Harnett County Schools

Director of Accountability and Student Information

[Harnett County Schools' Parent's Guide to Student Achievement](#)