

PARENT POWER!



Caldwell County Schools
1914 Hickory Boulevard, SW
Lenoir, NC 28645



PARENT POWER!

Parent involvement is an integral part of a child's experience in public education. With the support of parents, children will most likely reach their fullest potential at school. The Caldwell County School System encourages parents to be engaged in the education process from Pre-K to high school graduation. They are welcomed into the schools as volunteers, invited to attend parent conferences and contacted by teachers and principals on a regular basis through a multiplicity of communication options.

This school year the Caldwell County School System wants to ensure that parents are fully aware of their responsibilities as a parent and clearly understand the rights of their children. Included in this booklet are federal and state annual notices that address student records, civil rights, disabilities, student health and other areas that could affect the learning environment.



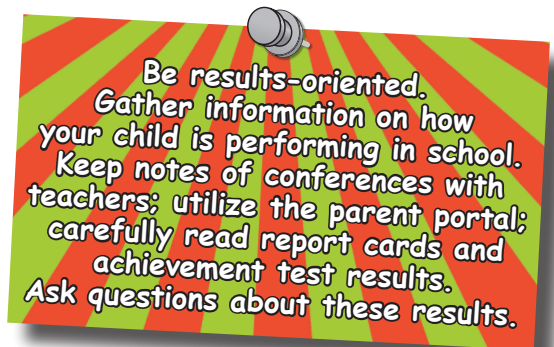
Student Records: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), a federal law, gives parents and students over eighteen (18) years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review your child’s education records within forty-five (45) days of the day the school receives a request for access. You should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) you wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify you of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request an amendment of your child’s education records that you believe are inaccurate or misleading. You should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record(s) you want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify you of the decision and advise you of your right to a hearing regarding the request for the amendment.
- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in your child’s education records. FERPA requires that the school obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of any such information with certain exceptions.
- The School District may release “directory information” about a student unless you have advised the school to the contrary. The School District has designated the following information as directory information:

Student’s Name	Degrees, honors, and awards received
Address	Date and place of birth
Telephone listing	Electronic mail address
Photograph	Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
Major field of study	Weight and height of members of athletic teams
Grade level	Most recent educational agency or institution attended
Dates of attendance	Enrollment status

- The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:
 - The annual yearbook;
 - Honor roll or other recognition lists;
 - Graduation programs;
 - or Sports activity sheets, showing weight and height of team members.
- Directory information may also be disclosed to outside organizations without prior written consent.
- In addition, under federal law, the school district is required to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education, upon their request, with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students, unless the student or parent has advised the school that they do not want such information disclosed without their prior written consent.
- If you do not want the school to disclose some or all of the directory information described above from your child's education records to all or certain recipients without your prior written consent, the School District must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of the beginning of the school year or within fourteen (14) days of your enrolling in the School District.
- For your convenience, a form that can be used for this purpose is provided at school or the Education Center.



Non-Discrimination: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504); and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

It is the School District's policy not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, sex, disability, religion or age in its educational programs, activities or employment policies.

For inquiries or complaints or to request a copy of the School District's grievance procedures, please contact:

Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Trish Johnson
Associate Superintendent

504/ADA Coordinator
Jill Duffy
Student Support Services Director

The Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education is responsible for enforcing laws prohibiting discrimination in federally assisted educational programs and activities. These laws include Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 which prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities. All public and private schools that receive any federal financial assistance must comply with this law.



Title IX Requirements Regarding Pregnant and Parenting Students

specifically prohibit discrimination against a student based on pregnancy, childbirth, false

pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery from any of these conditions. The Title IX regulation also prohibits a school from applying any rule related to a student's parental, family, or marital status that treats students differently based on their sex.

Students with Disabilities: Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)

Pursuant to the IDEA, a federal law, the School District must provide special education services to all children residing in the school district who are between the ages of three (3) and twenty one (21) who have been diagnosed with or are suspected to have mental, physical or emotional disabilities and who are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. If your child or a child you know may qualify for such special assistance, please contact:

Robert Semple
Director of Exceptional Children

Homeless Students: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

For information concerning the educational rights of homeless students, please consult School Board Policy 4125 available at caldwellschools.com

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment requires that the School District notify you and obtain consent or allow you to opt-out your child from participating in certain school activities. These activities include a student survey, analysis or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following seven areas:

1. Political affiliates or belief of the student or student's parents;
2. Mental or psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and/or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incrimination or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

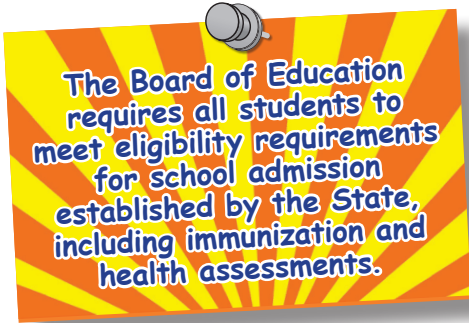
This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams or screenings, except for hearing, vision or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.

The School District will, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of the surveys and activities, provide notice of said surveys and activities and give you or your son/daughter, if he/she is eighteen (18) years old or older, the opportunity to opt-out.

Student Health: N.C.G.S. § 115C-375.4

With the passage of N.C.G.S. 115C-375.4, the school district provides information on Influenza and Meningococcal diseases and the vaccines that are available to prevent each. Influenza ("flu")

is caused by a virus that spreads from infected persons to the nose or throat of others. Influenza can cause fever, sore throat, chills, coughs, headache and muscle aches.



Anyone can get influenza. Most people are ill with flu for only a few days, but some get much sicker and may need to be hospitalized. Influenza causes an average of 36,000 deaths each year in the U.S., mostly among the elderly.

Influenza vaccine is available in two types. Inactivated (killed) flu vaccine, given as a shot, has been used in the U.S. for many years. A live, weakened vaccine, FluMist, was licensed in 2003. It is sprayed into the nostrils. It is available for persons age 5 – 49 years of age. Influenza viruses change often. Therefore, influenza vaccine is updated every year. Protection develops in about two weeks after getting the shot and may last up to a year. The best time to get the vaccine is in October or November. Contact your local health department or physician for more details on cost and time vaccine will be available.

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2 – 18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings. Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections. About 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Ten to fifteen percent of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another ten percent (10%) have chronic complications. It is most common in infants less than one year of age, international travelers, and people with certain medical conditions. College freshmen, particularly those who live in dormitories, have a slightly increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Learn more about these vaccines by consulting with your family doctor or contacting the Caldwell County Health Department at 828-426-8400 or contacting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at 1-800-232-2522 (English) or 1-800-232-0233 (Spanish) or visiting <http://cdc.gov/vaccines/>.

Use of Pesticides: N.C.G.S. § 115C-47(47)

With the passage of N.C.G.S. § 115C-47(47), the School District will notify parents regarding pesticide use on school property. For more information, please consult School Board Policy 9205 available at caldwellschools.com.

Cervical Cancer, Cervical Dysplasia and Human Papillomavirus Information: N.C.G.S. § 115C-47(51)

For students in grades five (5) through twelve (12), information about cervical cancer, cervical dysplasia and human papillomavirus, including the causes and symptoms of these diseases, how they are transmitted, and how they may be prevented by vaccination, can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac or contact your school nurse and /or counselor.

Lawful Abandonment of Newborn Infant: N.C.G.S. § 115C-47(52)

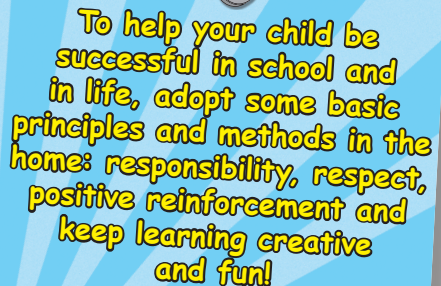
A female may lawfully abandon an infant under seven (7) days of age by voluntarily delivering to one of the following: health care provider, law enforcement officer, social services worker, certified medical services worker or any responsible adult. More information can be found at www.safesurrender.net.

Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

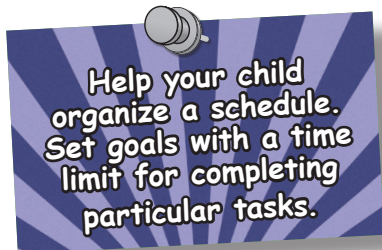
For information on what constitutes discrimination, harassment and bullying and the reporting and complaint procedures, see School Board Policies 1720/4015/7225 and policies 1710/4021/7230 available at caldwellschools.com.

Complaint and Grievance Procedure

For information on the parent and student complaint and grievance policies and procedures, see School Board Policies 1740 and 4010 available at caldwellschools.com.



To help your child be successful in school and in life, adopt some basic principles and methods in the home: responsibility, respect, positive reinforcement and keep learning creative and fun!



Student Behavior

For information on student behavior policies, the Code of Student Conduct and school standards and rules, see School Board Policy 4309 available at caldwellschools.com or contact the school administrative office.

Student Restraint/Seclusion/Isolation

The School District has adopted School Board Policy 4304, as required by N.C.G.S. § 115C-391.1.

Students Enrolled in Title I Schools

Parents of children in a Title I school have the right to request and receive timely information on the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. All elementary and middle schools in the district have been identified as Title I Schools.

Parents may request:

- whether the teacher has met state qualifying and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived;
- the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, including the field of discipline of the certification or degree; and
- whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Additional resources for parents are available from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the U.S. government and other organizations.

**Public Schools
of North Carolina**
www.ncpublicschools.org

**General Education
Information**
U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov
1-800-USA-LEARN (toll free)

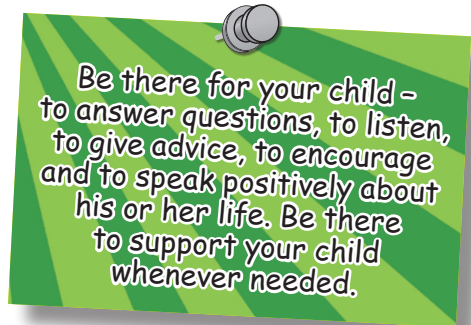
**Help With Homework
or School Projects**
Free Resources for
Educational Excellence
www.free.ed.gov

Free or Reduced School Lunch

A free or reduced lunch application form will be sent home with your child at the beginning of the school year. Please complete the form and return it to your child's teacher. You will be notified if your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced meal prices. All information is strictly confidential.

Technology in Schools

Parents are required to give consent for their child to have access to a variety of technological resources in the schools. School Board Policy 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use outlines the expectations for usage, restrictions, parental consent and privacy.



Information Regarding Advanced Courses

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 115C-83.4A(d), schools must provide information to students and parents on available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take advanced courses. This information will be printed in student handbooks or made available on the school's website at the beginning of the year available at caldwellschools.com.



PARENT PORTAL!

An Online Portal To Student Information

Parents have access to information about their child anytime during the day or any day of the week by using a secure website containing current data on their child's attendance and grades. Parent Portal is an online resource designed for parents of children enrolled in the North Carolina public schools. This Internet-based program gives parents access to information concerning their child's academic progress, attendance, grades and emergency contacts. Before access is allowed, each child's parent receives a unique username and password assigned by the school's administrative office. Parents are encouraged to keep their username and password private to preserve the integrity of the communication resource and to protect the sensitive student information posted within the site. There is no cost involved in using the Parent Portal, which is available to parents through a link on each school's webpage and on the district website caldwellschools.com under the Parent tab.

CCS Parent Survey – Your Input Is Important To Us

Take a few minutes to complete an online survey at caldwellschools.com, go to Parents and Parent Involvement. The survey will assist the school district with better meeting the needs of parents in regards to school level and district level communication. Your involvement and participation in the Caldwell County Schools is greatly appreciated.

To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures of the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA, send correspondence to

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

For additional information on Parent Power, contact
Caldwell County Schools
Community Services Department
1914 Hickory Blvd. SW
Lenoir, NC 28645