


PARENT POWER!



Parent's
Guide to a
Successful
School
Year



Caldwell County Schools
1914 Hickory Boulevard, SW
Lenoir, NC 28645
2023-2024



PARENT POWER!

Parents need to be aware of the importance of their role in public education. All parents are invited to be involved in their students' education starting as early as pre-kindergarten and continuing through high school graduation. They are encouraged to work with school faculty and staff to provide the best learning environment and experiences possible.

The correlation between the school and home connection plays a pivotal role in a student's success, and effective communication is crucial in ensuring that success. Annually, the school district furnishes this guide, empowering parents to make responsible and well-informed choices regarding their child's education. Parents are further urged to reach out to their child's school for supplementary information or if they have questions.

By collaborating harmoniously, we can collectively foster a successful school year!



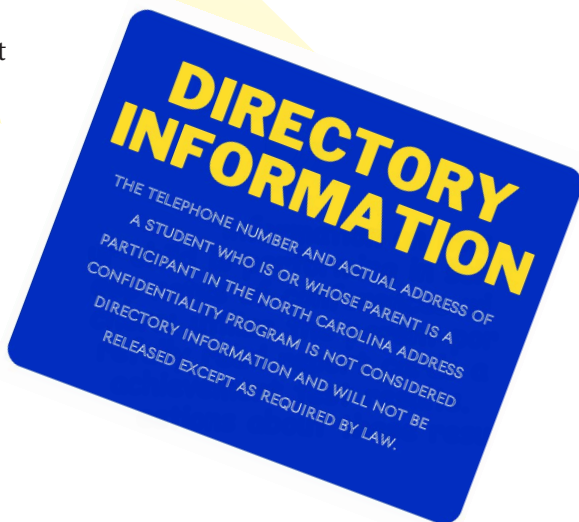
Student Records: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

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:

- A parent or eligible student may access the student's education records upon proper request. The principal or designee shall schedule an appointment as soon as possible but no later than 14 calendar days after the request by the parent or eligible student. The parent or eligible student may formally review the student's complete education records only in the presence of the principal or a designee competent to explain the records.
- A parent or eligible student has the right to challenge an item in the student education record believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. Subsequent steps, if necessary, will follow the student grievance procedures as provided in School Board policy 1740/4010: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure. If the final decision is that the information in the record is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of the student, the principal shall inform the parent or eligible student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information in the record or stating why he or she disagrees with the decision of the school system.
- FERPA requires that schools obtain a parent or eligible student's written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in a student's education record with certain exceptions.
- Permission of the parent or eligible student is not required for the release of directory information (see Directory Information chart below); however a parent or eligible student may opt out by notifying the school (Board policy 4700 Student Records).

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| Student's Name | Date and Place of Birth |
| Photograph or Digital Image | Still or video images of a student engaged in ordinary school activities |
| Participation in officially recognized activities and sports | Weight and height of members of athletic teams |
| Grade level | Most recent educational agency or institution attended |
| Dates of attendance | Diplomas (endorsements earned), credentials/certifications, and awards |

- The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the school to include this type of information 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.
- 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 student's school must be notified in writing within fourteen (14) days of this notice.



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 call 828-728-8407:

Title IX Coordinator
Carol Sturgis
Student Outreach Coordinator

504/ADA Coordinator
Robert Semple
Student Support Services Director

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights 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 call 828-728-8407.

Director of Exceptional Children

Homeless Students:

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

For information concerning the educational rights of homeless students, please refer to School Board Policy 4125 posted online at caldwellschools.com or contact Carol Sturgis at 828-728-8407 ext. 140169

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.

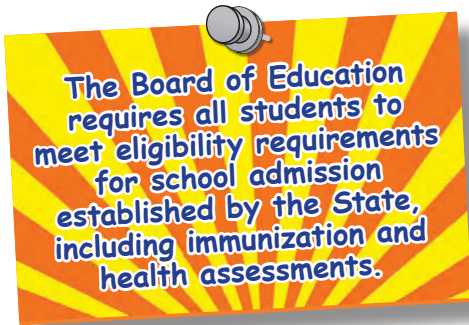
This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing purposes and certain physical exams or screenings, except for hearing, vision or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.

The School District will, within a reasonable period of time prior to the administration of 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.



Kindergarten Registration:
A child entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before August 31 of the year presented for enrollment.

North Carolina Vaccine-Specific Requirements

The North Carolina General Statutes (G.S. 130A-152(a)) require immunizations for every child present in this state. Every parent, guardian or person in loco parentis is responsible for ensuring that their child(ren) receive required immunizations. If you have specific questions regarding your child, contact your child's health care provider or the Caldwell County Health Department. North Carolina has vaccination requirements when children enter school or child care, again in the seventh grade, and also in a student's senior year in high school.

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 at

1-800-232-2522 (English) or
1-800-232-0233 (Spanish) or
visit <http://cdc.gov/vaccines/>.

Caldwell County students have the opportunity to apply for a transfer to a school of their choice if space is available and if certain criteria from Board Policy 4150 are met. A Transfer Application form must be submitted annually for each student.



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)

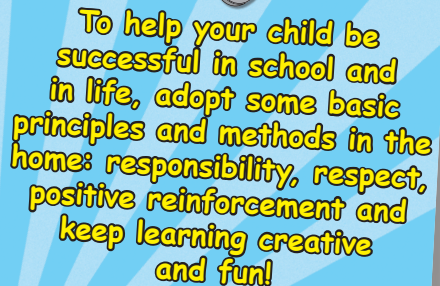
A female may lawfully abandon an infant under seven (7) days of age by voluntarily delivering to one of the following: health care provider, law enforcement officer, social services worker, certified medical services worker or any responsible adult.

Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

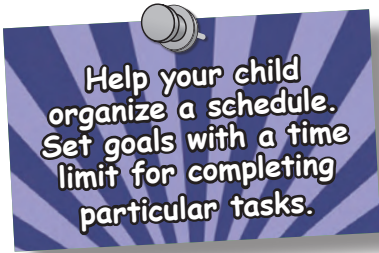
For information on what constitutes discrimination, harassment and bullying and the reporting and complaint procedures, see School Board Policy 1700 Governing Principle - Removal of Barriers and policies 1510/4200/7270 on School Safety available at caldwellschools.com.

Complaint and Grievance Procedure

For information on the parent and student complaint and grievance policies and procedures, see School Board Policies 1740 and 4010 online 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 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 Breakfast and Lunch Meals

All students in grades PreK-12 eat breakfast and lunch free from August 28, 2023 through 2027. The no cost breakfast and lunch servings on school campuses will be in effect for four years as part of a key provision in the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

STEM in Schools

The Caldwell County Schools' grant proposal was one of 18 funded in North Carolina through the state's Digital Learning Initiative for the development and dissemination of local innovative digital learning models. The goal of the competitive grant program is to have effective digital learning practices spread across the state in public schools.



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 for students to take advanced courses. This information is printed in the student curriculum guide distributed to students each year.

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PARENT PORTAL!

An Online Portal To Student Information

Parents have access to educational information about their student anytime 24/7 by using a secure website containing student data. 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 their student's 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 website and on the district website at caldwellschools.com

CCS Parent Survey – Your Input is Important to Us

Parents are invited to complete an online survey at caldwellschools.com, go to Parents and Parent Involvement. The survey will assist in effectively communicating with parents at the school and district level.

Your feedback, support, and involvement in the
Caldwell County Schools are greatly appreciated!

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