



Etowah Elementary School

Home of the All-Stars!

320 Etowah School Road
Etowah, NC 28729
(828) 891-6560
Fax (828) 891-6579
Dr. Amanda Childers, Principal
Andi Marshall, Asst. Principal

July 26, 2025

Dear Etowah Elementary School Parents and Families,

We hope that you and your family have a great start to this unprecedented school year. We are thrilled to have your child here at Etowah Elementary School! Our school is proud to be a Title I School, which means that we receive federal funds to help impact student learning. The amount of federal dollars that Title I schools receive is based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. Our past enrollment showed 68% of our students fell into this category. The federal government determines percentages based on the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. It is inherently valuable to our school that each family complete the free and reduced lunch form regardless of whether your family qualifies or not. Even if your child does not eat school meals, completing the application can help us. You may choose not to participate in the free and reduced lunch program, but qualifying will support the school. Forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year and are always available in our office. You can also apply online at lunchapplication.com.

We use our Title I funds in these capacities:

- To hire qualified tutors and other staff to facilitate instruction to small groups of students;
- To purchase educational materials and online subscriptions to support our curriculum;
- To expand the use of technology throughout our school;
- To provide professional development opportunities to teachers;
- To increase our media collection including spanish materials;

Title I schools are required to keep parents notified about what's going on in our school. Specifically, Title I schools must communicate about opportunities for parents to be involved in school and about your rights as a parent. Our school conducts a variety of Parent Engagement activities every year. These activities are planned with help from our parents and are designed to enhance our relationships with the school community. Please watch out for information about these events. We'd love for you to join us!

Finally, our school is proud of our teachers and we are pleased that federal guidelines require that we provide information about their education and qualifications. You have the right to the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met the state qualifications for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which the state qualifications have been waived;
- What baccalaureate degrees have been earned by the teacher, along with the field of study and any other certifications;
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications; and
- Whether your child has received four weeks or more of instruction by a non highly-qualified teacher.

You may request this information from the school or from Dr. Marsha Justice, Director of Elementary Education and Title I, at 828-697-4733.

Sincerely,

Amanda Childers, Principal



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Etowah Parent Engagement Policy

Convene an Annual Meeting:

Etowah Elementary hosts an open house and annual meeting during the first quarter of the school year. During this meeting, Etowah presents information about Title I funding and programs. This meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, parents and families were sent a notification letter about Etowah's Title I program which is also available on our school's website.

Offer Flexible Parent and Family Engagement Educational and Informational Activities:

Etowah Elementary will provide educational and informational activities and opportunities for families throughout the school year. These include, but are not limited to, academic engagement activities, information about student assessments (which will detail proficiency levels and expected student growth) and strategies families can use to help students succeed. Feedback from families will assist Etowah in different engagement activities to offer. Virtual events and/or recordings may be held and available at varying times to accommodate the needs of working families.

Involve Parents and Families in an Organized, Ongoing, and Timely Way:

Etowah Elementary will provide parent representation on the School Improvement Team, Parent Involvement Committee, and Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council. Parents and families will be included in decisions involving the School Improvement Plan, this Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and will be asked to serve on various school committees.

Provide Timely Information:

Individual teacher conferences will be scheduled at times convenient for families in the fall and spring for all students. For students having special or unique learning needs, additional meetings will be scheduled including MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) meetings, 504 meetings, and IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings and PEP (Personalized Education Plans). Teacher newsletters, websites, social media, educational apps, report cards, progress reports, and standardized test results will all be used to keep families informed about school events and their child's educational needs and progress.

Provide for Family Comments:

Etowah Elementary will provide opportunities for family comments on the schoolwide plan through conferences, committees, the School Improvement Team, and surveys.

Etowah Elementary recognizes the importance of home and school communication, involvement, and collaboration for the success and well being of our students and encourages parents to communicate regularly with faculty and staff. A parent and family survey is available at: <https://forms.gle/NrYek89ZtUxA1h559>

Parent and Family Engagement Activities 2025-26

Traditionally, Etowah hosts a variety of parent and family engagement activities and events including the following:

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| • Meet the Teacher Event | August 7, 2025 from 3:30 - 5pm |
| • Annual Title I Informational Meeting & Open House | August 21, 2025 from 4:00pm - 6:00pm |
| • Elementary Night at WHHS Football Game | October 17, 2025 6:45pm |
| • Literacy Lunch and Learn | September 19, 2025 (30 min before or after lunch) |
| • Fall Book Fair | September 19-26, 2025 |
| • Fall Conferences | most during Oct. 15 - 30, 2025 |
| • Veteran's Day Program | November 10, 2025 at 8:30 am |
| • 1st Semester Growth Parades - K-2nd | January 16, 2026 1:15 - 1:45pm |
| • 1st Semester Growth Parades - 3rd - 5th | January 16, 2026 2:00 - 2:30pm |
| • Math Carnival | January 30, 2026 4:00 - 5:30pm |



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Etowah Home Promise for 2025-2026

updated Aug. 4, 2025

The faculty and staff of Etowah Elementary promise to:

- ☐ create a safe, positive, learning environment.
- ☐ utilize various media formats to promote two-way communication to correspond positively with all parents/guardians throughout the school year (including email, phone calls, websites, folders, Class Dojo app, etc.).
- ☐ encourage daily attendance.
- ☐ support the partnership between home, school, and community.
- ☐ teach the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- ☐ provide an environment and learning opportunities that enhance a life-long love of learning.

Teacher: _____ Principal: _____

As a parent, I promise to:

- ☐ provide a quiet study area at home, encourage good study habits, and limit screen time.
(Suggested practice: Turn off all devices for 20 minutes a day and have family conversation.)
- ☐ read to and with my child regularly.
- ☐ encourage my child to read daily.
- ☐ encourage physical activity.
- ☐ attend school functions, meetings, and programs.
- ☐ support the teacher's efforts to help my child succeed.
- ☐ establish an age appropriate bedtime routine.
- ☐ return "to be signed" documents.
- ☐ reinforce the value of school and the love of learning.
- ☐ send my child to school regularly and on time. I am aware of the Henderson County Public Schools attendance policy that states that students should have a maximum of 14 total absences in order to meet promotion standards.

Parent/Guardian: _____

As a student of Etowah Elementary, I promise to:

- ☐ be safe.
- ☐ Follow the All Star Code: Shine Bright (be respectful). Shine Right (be responsible). Shine Ready (Be ready to learn)
- ☐ be a good listener.
- ☐ do my required assignments.
- ☐ read more and reduce my screen time (phone, TV, computer, video games, devices).
- ☐ be prepared for the school day.
- ☐ share my school day with my parents/guardians.
- ☐ do my best to attend school daily.
- ☐ tell trusted adults if I have any problems.

Student: _____