HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

It is the goal of Henderson County Public School to offer parents/guardians resources and opportunities for discussion that ensure support for student achievement. Please utilize this resource to assist in answering most questions parents/guardians may have. If you have other questions or have a need for additional information, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or principal.
If you would like to have a print copy of this document, please contact the Central Office of Henderson County Public Schools (828.697.4733) or your child's school office.

How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	For information about promotion to the next grade level, the most important contact is your child's teacher or the teacher for a specific course. Detailed information regarding promotion standards is included in Policy 3420.
What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	North Carolina details the standards for each course of study for which students must learn and be responsible for demonstrating proficiency. Teachers are responsible for including these standards in lesson plans each day and to provide ongoing assessment to determine student achievement related to the standards. The NC Standards for each area below can be found at this link, and include the areas listed below: ● Arts Education ● Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Career Pathways ● Computer Science, Information Technology (IT), and Technology Education ● English Language Arts ● English Language Development ● Guidance

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	• Healthful Living • Information and TechnologyMathematics • Science • Social Studies • World Languages Policy 3200 details how curriculum materials are selected for use by teachers to meet the standards outlined for each grade level. Policy 3210 details how parents/guardians may review instructional materials that are being used within the school and classroom.
How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	Henderson County Public Schools sends out progress reports each nine weeks through our parent portal in our student information system. Parents in grades three through twelve can review grades at any time during the quarter. Teachers are expected to update grades weekly based on assignments and assessments given. Parents/guardians will receive information regarding how to access the Parent Portal for our student information system, allowing them to access information about their child's progress. Parents/guardians can contact the Data Manager at the school for questions related to Parent Portal access. Policy 3400 details the evaluation of student progress, and Policy 3400-R details grading scales and progress reports. For additional information, parents/guardians should be aware of the following measures of student progress: **State Assessments:**

	Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in the parent portal of our student information system. All NC students in grades 3-8 take end-of-grade (EOG) assessments for reading and math. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. In high school, students take end-of-course (EOC) assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Students who are CTE Concentrators in Grade 12 take ACT WorkKeys. Those results are shared by ACT. **Individual Reading Plans** (IRP) are developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP includes specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home. Amplify mCLASS is the NC selected literacy assessment used in grades K-5. This valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring, included as assessment given at the beginning of the school year, middle of the year, and end of the year. In individual student report is shared with parents following each assessment cycle. Parents receive progress reports for students with disabilities who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) consistent with our scheduled progress reports.
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents/guardians may look up a teacher's licensure status through the NC Public Schools licensure site, found at this link. Please note this site does not provide personal information about teachers. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's principal if they have additional questions about teacher qualifications.

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	In Title I schools, a staff qualifications letter is a federal requirement for Title I schools, and is sent at the beginning of the school year regarding parents' rights to request and be provided with the information regarding the qualifications of their child's classroom teacher and paraprofessionals. This letter is a federal requirement for Title I schools. The letter includes: • 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.
What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	For enrollment, parents/guardians must provide the school with proof of residence. Other details for enrollment can be found on the enrollment page of the HCPS website, found at this link. Students must turn five before August 31st of the school year of their initial enrollment to be considered for kindergarten entry. Policy 4100 details these age requirements.

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	In addition, there are several requirements regarding immunizations and health documentation detailed in Policy 4110. Students have 30 days from the date of enrollment to provide this documentation to the enrolling school. Specific statutory requirements, referenced above, may be found here: Admission requirements: GS_115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization records: GS_130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) Immunization requirements: GS_130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64") Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources Recommended Immunization Schedules Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements NCDHHS Health Assessment Form
How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?	Per Policy 3400, parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in communication opportunities with the school, including review of progress reports and conferences. In addition, participation in school-based events that highlight the instructional goals of the schools provides ongoing opportunities for parents/guardians to learn about the school and what their child is learning.

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	Information regarding Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher can be found at this link in English and at this link in Spanish. Information regarding How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning can be found at this link in English and at this link in Spanish. Information regarding the Guide to Digital Citizenship for Students can found at this link. The link to the NC Department of Public Instruction Parent's Corner can be found here, which includes information for parents around instruction and supplemental supports.
How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?	In Henderson County Public Schools, supporting the whole child is a priority, and our goal is to prepare students for their future and all it may hold. For this reason, instructional practices in classrooms include Casel's 3 Signature Practices, linked here. These are embedded in daily lessons. In addition, schools include Leadership resources and resources from NC Portrait of a Graduate (linked here) to ensure that durable skills are a priority as we prepare our students for the workforce. In most of our schools, Leader in Me, or LEAD (in secondary schools), is a primary vehicle for ensuring the durable skills are addressed and that student leadership is a focus. Communication with the school and your child's teacher can familiarize you with the common language used in the classroom.
How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	Our Title I schools use Policy 1320/3560 Parent and Family Engagement to inform their expectations regarding parent/guardian communication, but all schools are encouraged to utilize these best practices. Policy 3400 also outlines how parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in communication opportunities with the school, including review of progress reports and conferences. In addition, participation in school-based events that highlight the instructional goals of the schools provides ongoing

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	opportunities for parents/guardians to learn about the school and what their child is learning. Most importantly, parents/guardians should always ensure that the school has the most current contact information in the student information system. This will allow teachers and the school to easily contact parents/guardians for general communication and in case of emergency.
What services are available for parents and their children?	**Family Literacy:** Families are encouraged to access the NC Digital Children's Reading Initiative, found at this link as part of the NC Department of Public Instruction Office of Early Learning. This online resource provides families with access to digital texts and online libraries for children in PreK through fifth grade. In addition, each of our Title I elementary schools host events with a literacy emphasis each year. **Mentoring:** The Henderson County Pathfinders Program, found at this link, is supported by the Henderson County Education Foundation, and is available at a limited number of sites at this time. **Tutoring:** Tutoring is provided at each school site as recommended by your child's teacher. Specific questions should be directed to the classroom teacher K-5, or to the teacher of the class for which there are concerns in grades 6-12. **College Planning:** We coordinate with the College Foundation of NC, who provides a college planning workshop at our high schools, including information about applying for college and how to apply for the FAFSA. In addition, schools host a FAFSA night, as well as coordinating with Blue Ridge Community College for a College & Career Promise (CCP) and Career & Technical Education (CTE) night. Blue Ridge Community College also coordinates an Apprenticeship night.

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	Academic Advisement: Our high schools (excluding our Early College and Career Academy) have a 9th grade curriculum night and counselors set up meetings with students for academic advising. Rising 9th grade students develop four year plans to help guide their high school career through the support of counselors and Career & Technical Education (CTE staff). Throughout the year, HS counselors also meet with students to work with them on academic questions, schedules and future plans. HS websites do have course information and scholarship information throughout the year. Early College and Career Academy each have a personalized admissions procedure, which includes academic advising. Interested students should contact the counselor at their current middle or high school. **Multi-Tiered System of Supports:** MTSS is a school-wide approach that helps all students succeed by providing the right level of support based on their individual academic, social, and emotional needs. It uses a three-tier system: ● **Tier 1** is what all students receive—high-quality instruction and support in the classroom. ● **Tier 2** offers extra help in small groups for students who need more support. ● **Tier 3** provides individualized support for students with more significant needs. Using data and regular team meetings, teachers, school staff, parents, and administrators work together to create a plan that gives each student the tools and resources they need to grow and thrive—both academically and emotionally. Find more on the HCPS MTSS website link: https://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/student-services/mtss/

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	Student Counseling Services: Individual & group counseling is provided to students as needed by school counselors and the school social worker. Referrals are made to outside agencies when it appears students are in need of ongoing services. **After School Programs:** Our HCPS Childcare program offers before and after school care, as well as summer programming. Additional information can be found at this link on our website.
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	Parents/guardians interested in participating in school programs should always begin by sharing their interest at their child's school. School Improvement Team meetings are open meetings, and are an excellent opportunity to learn about school happenings and to be a part of school improvement initiatives. Meetings are posted on the district web site for each school year, as well as being posted at each school building. Representatives from each school are selected at the school level to serve on the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council, which meets monthly. Feedback from the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council and the School Improvement Team meetings are used to consider ongoing improvements. In addition, parent representatives are included in the development of a draft school calendar for each year.
What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	Below are several of the academic programs that promote more rigorous opportunities for students. **Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted Programming (AIG):** The AIG program in HPCS is designed to extend and enhance the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, K-12. At the elementary level, students who are identified as needing services are generally pulled for reading and math extension. In middle school, students can be placed in Honors Language Arts and Math classes, including Math 1 and English 1 in the 8th grade. While in high school, students have a variety of classes and extracurricular opportunities available to them that go beyond the regular classroom setting. These opportunities include Honors, Advanced Placement, CTE and college courses.

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	Honors Programming: Students at the secondary level have a variety of Honors opportunities. At all middle schools, there are opportunities for qualifying students to take Honors Language Arts and Math classes, including Math 1 and English 1 in the 8th grade. Spanish 1 is also available at our middle schools. In high school, students can take many Honors, Advanced Placement, CTE and college courses. The Honors programming is continually evaluated and updated to accommodate students' needs at each of the high schools. **Advanced Placement:** Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered at all of our high schools. AP is a program of classes developed by the College Board to give high school students an introduction to college level classes and an opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. **Career and College Promise:** Career & College Promise (CCP) is North Carolina's dual enrollment program for high school students. This program allows eligible NC high school students to enroll in college classes at North Carolina community colleges and universities through their high school. Students who successfully complete college courses earn college credit they can take with them after graduation. In many cases, students can also earn dual credit by meeting high school graduation requirements with college courses. **Blue Ridge Scholars:** This Henderson County Career & College Promise program, developed in collaboration with Blue Ridge Community College, provides the opportunity for students to join a cohort of students in their junior year of high school. This cohort includes two predetermined Blue Ridge Community College courses taught each semester on our HCPS campuses at the high schools, excluding Innovative High School. Upon completion of the Blue Ridge Scholars program, students will receive a cord at graduation designating them as a Blue Ridge Scholar, as well as having earned -- credits toward college.

	Henderson County Virtual Public School (HCVPS): The Henderson County Virtual Public School provides online coursework, creating flexible scheduling and content options for HCPS high school students. These asynchronous courses, taught by local teachers and facilitated through Google Classroom, allow students to complete assignments at their own pace. HCVPS offers over 40 courses, approximately half of which are Honors or AP level. Students/families should contact the school counselor with questions about HCVPS. **North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS):** The North Carolina Virtual Public School is a supplemental service to the public schools of North Carolina. They provide asynchronous coursework in traditional and special-interest courses facilitated through the Canvas Learning Management system. Students/families should contact the school counselor with questions about NCVPS.
What school choices are available for my child?	Henderson County is home to Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS), which serves as the Public School Unit for the county. Parents/guardians can contact HCPS (link found here) to determine which schools their child is districted to attend. In addition, parents can complete a reassignment form for consideration to attend any of the HCPS if there is a need. Those forms can be found on the HCPS website (link found here) as well. Parents/guardians in Henderson County also have other education options for their child. Should a parent/guardian wish to consider a charter school, those choices for Henderson County can be found at this link through the NC Department of Public Instruction. In addition, Henderson County is also home to several private schools. The list of private schools operating in our county can be found at this link. Should a parent wish to start a homeschool, information can be found at this link.

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What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education. Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Special Education Surrogate Parents Project Child Find HCPS Exceptional Children's Services Parents of children aged two years old or younger who may be in need of special education services should contact the Children's Development Services Agency at 828-251-6091 Parents of children aged three or older who are not yet eligible to enter kindergarten should call the HCPS Exceptional Children's Preschool Office at 828-393-4560. Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their child's school.
What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	Contact information for Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS) can be found at their website, linked here and found at https://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/ The specific contact information for HCPS is: 414 4th Avenue West Hendersonville, NC 28739 828-697-4733 HCPS has 23 schools. The contact information for each is linked here and found at https://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/schools/

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	Elementary Schools: Atkinson Elementary 2510 Old Kanuga Road Hendersonville, NC 28739 Bruce Drysdale Elementary 271 Bearcat Blvd. Hendersonville, NC 28792 Clear Creek Elementary 737 North Clear Creek Road Hendersonville, NC 28792 Dana Elementary 690 Ridge Rd Hendersonville, NC 28792 Edneyville Elementary 2875 Pace Road Hendersonville, NC 28792 Etowah Elementary 320 Etowah School Road Etowah, NC 28729 Fletcher Elementary 500 Howard Gap Road Fletcher, NC 28732

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	Glenn C. Marlow Elementary 1985 Butler Bridge Road Mills River, NC 28759 Hendersonville Elementary 1039 Randall Circle Hendersonville, NC 28791 Hillandale Elementary 40 Preston Lane East Flat Rock, NC 28726 Mills River Elementary 94 School House Road Mills River, NC 28759 Sugarloaf Elementary 2270 Sugarloaf Road Hendersonville, NC 28792 Upward Elementary 45 Education Dr Flat Rock, NC 28731 **Middle Schools:** Apple Valley Middle 43 Fruitland Road Hendersonville, NC 28792

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	Flat Rock Middle 191 Preston Lane East Flat Rock, NC 28726 Hendersonville Middle 825 N. Whitted Street Hendersonville, NC 28791 Rugby Middle 3345 Haywood Road Hendersonville, NC 28791 **High Schools:** East Henderson High 150 Eagle Pride Drive East Flat Rock, NC 28726 Henderson County Career Academy 300 East Campus Drive Flat Rock, NC 28731 Henderson County Early College 300 East Campus Drive Flat Rock, NC 28731 Hendersonville High 1 Bearcat Blvd Hendersonville, NC 28791

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	North Henderson High 35 Fruitland Road Hendersonville, NC 28792 West Henderson 3600 Haywood Road Hendersonville, NC 28791
What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Henderson County Public Schools (HCPS) works closely with the Henderson County Department of Public Health. For information regarding immunizations and vaccinations, parents/guardians can access the links below. Henderson County Department of Public Health- Immunizations NC Department of Public Health Back to School requirements In addition, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their child's teacher, the school counselor and/or the school nurse with specific questions.