

**A. GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT**

Haywood County Schools believes advocating for student needs is an integral part of student support services. It is the philosophy of Haywood County Schools that all students have more success, in and out of school, if they are connected to engaging programs and receive advocacy support from staff. This provides a positive influence as well as encouragement.

**B. REGULATIONS**

1. Homeroom or self-contained teachers and school counselors will serve as the primary advocates for individual students. Teachers and school counselors should make secondary advocacy referrals depending on individual student needs.
2. Secondary advocacy referrals include, but are not limited to:
  - a. School Care (student services) Teams;
  - b. IEP/504 Teams;
  - c. Therapeutic services providers (with parent consent);
  - d. Remediation opportunities;
  - e. Academic enhancement opportunities;
  - f. Tutors, mentors, and instructional coaches;
  - g. Credit recovery programs;
  - h. Drop-out prevention/recovery programs;
  - i. School social worker support services;
  - j. School nursing support services; and/or
  - k. Extracurricular advisors/coaches.
3. School advocacy shall adhere to standards and expectations set forth in North Carolina public school law and Haywood County Board of Education policy.
4. Advocacy for students should include, but is not limited to:

- a. Academic needs;
- b. Social/emotional needs;
- c. Economic needs;
- d. Physical needs;
- e. Access needs;
- f. Handicapping condition needs;
- g. Post-secondary readiness needs; and/or
- h. Career readiness needs.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997)

Cross References:

Adopted: December 10, 2013

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