



HAYWOOD COUNTY
SCHOOLS

Haywood County Schools

1230 North Main Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
828 456 2400

Anne G. Garrett, Ed., D.
Superintendent

February 2015

Dear Parents, Students, and Teachers

The North Carolina Graduation Project is a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary performance assessment that provides students the opportunity to connect acquired knowledge and skills to real world situations through a research project and presentation. In 2012-2013, the decision was made that as a graduation requirement, all Haywood County Schools' students would complete this project, beginning as a freshman and culminating as a senior.

The decision to participate in the NC Graduation Project was initially made because it was to be part of the state accountability model for all schools. The NC Graduation Project can be part of the state accountability model, but it is optional and neither counts for or against the student, school or school system.

While projects such as these are beneficial, the administration has determined that the time and effort involved in the district-wide project does not directly correlate to increased performance for our students. The graduation project benefits of research methodology, writing, speaking, and presentation skills, can be effectively accomplished within individual classes, without requiring the project for all students.

Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, the graduation project will not be a graduation requirement. Teachers and students may choose to individually implement a similar project process, with the support of the administration. The project will not be a district requirement for graduation. Students, teachers, and schools who have begun the process and wish to continue, may do so.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anne Garrett
Superintendent

Board of Education

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