

Policy Code: 3130 Grouping for Instruction

All students are expected to meet state and local academic performance standards. The Board believes that heterogeneous grouping, usually, is the best means of meeting the educational goals of the Board. However, the Board recognizes that students may differ in the amount of time or methods needed to best facilitate and enhance learning. Students may participate in homogeneous instructional settings for portions of the school day.

If homogenous grouping practices are used, the following factors will be considered:

- individual needs of the student;
- students' academic, cognitive and developmental levels;
- the most effective instructional climate for student learning;
- class size.

The principal will monitor and report to the superintendent classroom/team and individual course composition/enrollment (based on data available from the NC Wise system, such as: gender, socio-economic status [free or reduced lunch eligibility], proficiency level, and race). (Cross-reference Policy Code: 4155 Assignment to Classes). Race or gender discrimination will not be tolerated. Instructional grouping should be based on the academic needs of students but in no case should be discriminatory. Racial isolation of students should be avoided if possible. If homogeneous grouping materially affects diversity, the person proposing such grouping must demonstrate that the benefit of homogenous grouping clearly outweighs the benefits of meeting the Board's educational goals of diversity.

While parent input is welcome, the principal has the authority to assign students to classes, and to group students for instruction in accordance with this policy. However, the principal should include teachers in this decision-making process. The principal also may evaluate whether the factors which precipitated the need for homogenous grouping still exist. Homogeneous groupings that are maintained over an extended period of time are subject to review by the principal and/or superintendent's designee.

This policy is not intended to alter teachers' discretion to group for instruction within and across classes and grade levels. Flexible grouping is an acceptable instructional strategy for improving student performance and achievement.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-81](#), [-276](#), [-288](#)

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (Policy 3000), Student Progression and Placement (Policy 3420), Assignment to Classes (Policy 4155)

Adopted:

Revised: June 6, 2002

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
