

Policy Code: 1810 Sustainability

Sustainability is the concept of meeting our current needs through behaviors, practices, and policies that do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Board of Education recognizes sustainability as a guiding principle and believes that the district should be committed to developing and integrating sustainability practices in all aspects of our education system.

Sustainability efforts will balance the interconnected areas of education, environment, society, and economy to contribute to a healthy future for our students, faculty, staff, and community. The Board believes that these actions are a natural extension of the district's core mission and values. All Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) staff, students, and community use groups are expected to contribute toward the district's efforts to be more sustainable. To effectively achieve these commitments, the Superintendent may develop plans and regulations to implement the sustainability policy.

Sustainability will be demonstrated through:

A. Sustainable management: Striving to incorporate educational, social, and environmental values in our daily decision-making. Specific areas include, but are not limited to:

- a. Reducing energy and water consumption.
- b. Purchasing more sustainable products and materials.
- c. Reducing waste by cutting consumption and increasing recycling efforts.
- d. Lessen overall environmental impact

B. Sustainability education: Integrating environmental and social sustainability concepts in our education of students. Specific areas include, but are not limited to:

- a. Encouraging sustainability-focused student organizations and projects.
- b. Promoting sustainability-related resources for teachers and staff.
- c. Developing a better understanding of the local, regional, and global impacts of the district's activities.
- d. To support the integration of curricula that promote sustainability.

C. Fostering health and well-being: Providing a physical environment that promotes the health, productivity, and safety of students and staff. Specific areas include, but are not limited to:

- a. Continuing to strengthen the district's nutrition standards and policies.
- b. Examining the use of more sustainable cleaning products and methods.
- c. Reducing the district's carbon footprint.
- d. Providing safe and healthy classrooms and workspaces.

D. Continual Improvement: Seeking new, expanded and improved ways to create a sustainable and restorative future. Specific areas include, but are not limited to:

- a. Design/Construction of new facilities, major renovations, and existing infrastructure using high-performance building standards where possible.
- b. Increasing school, student, parent, and community engagement in goal-setting and decision-making.
- c. Participation in collaborative opportunities with the Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, and Orange County, where possible and feasible, to further operational resiliency.
- d. Developing and monitoring indicators of progress toward greater sustainability.
- e. Promoting and celebrating student and district accomplishments.

Cross References: Governing Principle - Stewardship of Resources (policy 1800), Goals of Equipment, Materials, and Supplies (policy 6500), Resource Conservation (policy 6530), Facility Construction (policy 9030), High-Performance Building Design Criteria (policy 9040), Care and Maintenance of Facilities (9200), Pest Management (9205).

Adopted: 6/2/11

Revised: 4/20/23

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
