

SCHOOL PROFILE
Watauga Elementary School

Watauga Elementary School is a public elementary school, located in a rural community about four miles from Abingdon in Washington County, Virginia. The school opened on August 17, 1981 and housed students in kindergarten through seventh grade. In the fall of 1991, Washington County adopted the middle school concept and Watauga became a K-5 School. A preschool class for four-year olds was added in the fall of 2000. Today, Watauga Elementary school continues to serve students in grades preschool through five with a current student enrollment count of 589.

An addition of four classroom spaces and restroom facilities in 2008 added much needed space and presently houses an art classroom, a first grade classroom, a resource class, and a computer lab. Despite a previous addition which currently houses fourth and fifth grades, an office and a conference room, Watauga continues to want for space. For many years, Watauga proudly served as a hub for special education, but in 2009-2010 two classes were moved due to space limitations.

In the past six years, the faculty of Watauga Elementary School has sustained significant changes, which include a new administrator and several new teachers. The faculty continues to be a compatible mix of energetic new teachers and experienced veterans who willingly share their expertise. In the same time period some faculty members have changed teaching assignments. The administration and many of the full- time faculty members hold advanced degrees.

The school currently has a total of 64 staff members, including 42 teachers. The ethnicity of the student body is composed of the following: 90.1% Caucasian, 3.3% Hispanic, 2.3% Asian, and 4.3% other. Roughly 44% of the student population qualifies for free/reduced lunch. The average daily attendance rate is consistently 95%. The average student teacher ratio is 20:1.

Watauga Elementary School has an active PTA which supports the school in every endeavor. The PTA collaborates with the faculty and administration to determine needed items that would benefit the entire student body and then plans their fundraisers around those needs. The efforts of Watauga's PTA have resulted in Watauga Elementary School being named a National PTA School of Excellence for 2014-2016.

Student performance data summarized on this site show proficiency levels for Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) scores. Watauga Elementary School continues to make gains in all content areas and the school's scores are consistently in the upper range of performance when compared to other schools in the county and state. In the spring of 2015, Watauga received the Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award. Most recently, Watauga Elementary School was nominated by the Virginia Department of Education to be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. These recognitions reflect the continued efforts of Watauga staff, students, and parents to ensure students' success. The school mission statement found below embodies the school community's dedication to the success of all students.

Watauga Elementary School seeks to recognize and respond to the needs of all students. Through the cooperative efforts of the school and the community, students will secure the foundation for continued success.