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Parent Complaints Lead to School Application Deadline Extension

Staff Writer

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WALKERTOWN, N.C. (WGHP)

A deadline for 11th graders to sign up to attend the new Walkertown Middle High School has been extended after parents complained they never received paperwork.

Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools officials said a letter went home with students in January, but parent Brian Mann said neither he, his neighbors, nor even their children, received such a letter.

"We never received any type of papers that state that. I think that they should not give it to a child. I mean, something of that important of nature should have been given to an adult, mailed to us," Mann said.

As a result, school officials have extended the deadline until Mar. 18. At least 100 students are needed to create a new junior class in order to make staffing and scheduling work, said Theo Helm, school system spokesperson.

Parents interested in enrolling students into the new school's 11th grade are asked to call the school assignment office or attend a community meeting on Mar. 7 at Walkertown Middle.

The school, which opens in August, will house students in grades 6 through 10. The school system policy keeps new high schools from including a senior class during its first year, and 11th grade is normally not included unless there is enough community interest.

"We get conflicting emotions from some people because they already spent two years in high school and aren't interested in going to a new school," Helm said.

The last two high schools, Reagan and Atkins, opened about five years ago. Reagan opened with an 11th grade, while Atkins did not, Helm said.

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