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Last night's Watauga County Board of Education meeting was all about awards. Watauga County Schools commended several students and faculty members for achievements in a variety of levels. More students than you might think from Watauga have been recognized on regional, state, and national levels, in everything from math competitions to poetry readings.

Among groups recognized were Watauga High School's Future Business Leaders of America, Skills USA, Bethel School's Battle of the Books, and Hardin Park's award winning "Coffee Talk" program. Watauga County Schools even announced all its preschool programs received five stars in their evaluations.

Next on the agenda was a new service that will soon hit the High Country. A presentation on Rainbow Center "Day Treatment Program" met the appreciation of Board members at last night's meeting. Among the program's admirers is Superintendent Dr. Bobbie Short, who believes it will prove a valuable asset to Watauga County Schools.

The program is in conjunction with Wilkes and Ashe counties, a day treatment program centering around students who have problems unable to be attended to in a regular classroom setting. Eventually, those involved would like to see a summer program for children with special needs, since no program currently exists in the High Country. The facility will likely be Fleetwood School in Ashe County, according to Short. Professional help with emotional and psychological problems will be offered, as well as regular academic curriculum.