

Area School Systems Handle Presidential Speech Differently

Written by Adam Hicks

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President Barack Obama will make a special speech directed at school children today at noon and schools across the region are dealing with the dilemma of whether or not to force children to watch the President's speech.

Marshall Ashcraft of Watauga County Schools said teachers will decide whether or not to show President Obama's speech in their classrooms.

A spokesperson for Ashe County Schools said every classroom will show Mr. Obama's speech, however lunch will not be rescheduled today to accommodate the telecast. Students who have brought a note from their parents or guardians will not have to watch the speech.

Officials at Avery County Schools were unavailable for comment.

Our Foothills Bureau reports Caldwell County Schools are not televising the speech. They are allowing teachers to record the speech and play it back to students on a later date if it is related to the curriculum and age appropriate. Burke County schools are leaving it up to the principals to televise the speech, and some Catawba County Schools are allowing the teachers or principals to decide.

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The speech will air at noon. Residents can also watch the speech online at www.WhiteHouse.gov