

1 Policies are the primary means by which the Transylvania County Board of Education (the
2 “board”) expresses its vision for the school system. In formulating specific policies, the board is
3 guided by **its duty to provide students with the opportunity to receive a sound basic education as**
4 **defined by the North Carolina Supreme Court in *Leandro v. State*. It is further guided by**
5 governing principles it considers critical to **meet that obligation by** providing a system of
6 excellent schools where students can succeed. These governing principles are referenced
7 frequently in the board policies and also are set out below.
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- 9 1. Student success. As its top priority, a system of excellent schools provides opportunities
10 for individual students to succeed and overall student performance to improve.
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- 12 2. Parental involvement. A system of excellent schools involves parents in decisions
13 regarding their own children, the educational program, and the schools.
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- 15 3. Safe, orderly, and inviting environment. A system of excellent schools creates and
16 maintains a safe and orderly environment where staff and students are focused on and
17 excited about learning.
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- 19 4. School initiatives. In a system of excellent schools, each school initiates improvements
20 to the educational program and services for students and involves staff, parents, and
21 students in school-level decision-making processes.
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- 23 5. Professional development. A system of excellent schools provides continuous
24 professional development and training to help personnel gain the skills and knowledge
25 needed to meet State Board and local board expectations, especially as they relate to
26 improving student performance.
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- 28 6. Removal of barriers. A system of excellent schools prohibits illegal discrimination and
29 harassment of staff and students, encourages tolerance and respect, and seeks to eliminate
30 or lessen other barriers that may impede a student’s ability or opportunity to learn,
31 including economic disadvantages, poor nutrition, ill-health, and lack of transportation.
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- 33 7. Stewardship of resources. A system of excellent schools conserves financial and
34 environmental resources and operates in an efficient manner.
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36 Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997)
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38 Cross References:
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40 Adopted: September 21, 2015
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42 Revised: [DATE]