

1 The [Transylvania County Board of Education](#) (the “board”) recognizes that, collectively and
2 individually, all members of the board must adhere to a code of ethics as required by G.S. 160A-
3 86 and G.S. 115C-47(57).

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5 **A. BOARD MEMBER ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS**

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7 The following standards will guide each board member in the performance of his or her
8 official duties:

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10 1. The need to obey all applicable state and federal laws regarding official actions
11 taken as a board member;
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13 2. The need to uphold the integrity and independence of the board member’s office;
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15 3. The need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board’s and board member’s
16 official duties;
- 17
18 4. The need to perform faithfully the duties of the office; and
- 19
20 5. The need to conduct the affairs of the board in an open and public manner,
21 complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records.

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23 **B. SPECIFIC BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS**

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25 In order to implement the above standards, each member of the board commits to do the
26 following:

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28 1. Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become
29 informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
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31 2. Endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held
32 board meetings;
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34 3. Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and
35 refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
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37 4. Model civility to students, employees, and all elements of the community by
38 encouraging the free expression of opinion by all board members and engaging in
39 respectful dialogue with fellow board members on matters being considered by
40 the board;
- 41
42 5. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law
43 and refrain from unauthorized disclosure of matters discussed in closed session;
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- 45 6. Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to
46 delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
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- 48 7. Communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of
49 public reaction to board policies and school programs;
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- 51 8. Learn about current educational issues by individual study and through
52 participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored
53 by the state and national school boards associations;
54
- 55 9. Comply with North Carolina General Statute 115C-50 by earning annually the
56 required 12 hours of training;
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- 58 10. Comply with G.S. 160A-87 by earning two hours of ethics education within 12
59 months of election or appointment to the board;
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- 61 11. Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school
62 employees and avoid allowing personal relationships and biases to influence
63 decision making;
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- 65 12. Refrain from investigating or attempting to resolve complaints received
66 personally, but instead direct the complainant to follow the board's complaint or
67 grievance process to resolve concerns;
68
- 69 13. Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest and refrain from using the
70 board member's position on the board for personal or partisan gain;
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- 72 14. Take no private action that will compromise the board or administration; and
73
- 74 15. Remember always that a board member's first and greatest concern must be the
75 educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
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77 All newly elected board members are expected to sign a code of ethics statement that includes
78 these provisions at the organizational meeting of the board.
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80 Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47(57), -50; 160A-86, -87
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82 Cross References: Board Member Opportunities for Development (policy 2123)
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84 Adopted:
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