

**RELIGIOUS-BASED EXEMPTIONS
FROM SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Policy Code: **3510**

1 The curriculum of the school system will be based on the current statewide instructional
2 standards. The [Transylvania County Board of Education \(the “board”\)](#) and the school
3 administrators will exercise their authority to select appropriate materials and teach the
4 curriculum in an effective manner. The board supports the free exercise of religion and prohibits
5 discrimination on the basis of religion. While students are expected to participate in all required
6 courses and school activities, the board recognizes that at times parents may object to a specific
7 school course or activity. This policy is designed to provide parents with a process for seeking a
8 religious-based exemption for their child from a required school course or activity.
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10 If parents have religious-based objections to certain programs, they may petition to exempt their
11 child from participation. Any request for exemption should be submitted to the superintendent in
12 accordance with the following guidelines.
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- 14 1. The request must be in writing.
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- 16 2. The request must specify the activities or studies that violate their religious beliefs and
17 explain how their religious beliefs are violated by the activity.
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- 19 3. The request may suggest a proposed alternate activity or study.
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21 The superintendent shall review the request in accordance with any constitutional or statutory
22 standards and shall accommodate the request when required to do so by law. If accommodation
23 is not required by law, the superintendent or designee may choose to accommodate such a
24 request after weighing factors, such as the interest of the child, the impact on other students, and
25 the availability of alternative activities or materials. An appeal of the superintendent’s decision
26 may be made to the board through the student grievance procedure.
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28 Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; N.C. Const. art. I, § 14; G.S. 115C-36, -47
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30 Cross References: Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Goals and
31 Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100)
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33 Adopted:
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