

1 The **Transylvania County Board of Education** (the “board”) is committed to a sound,
 2 comprehensive health education program that provides students with accurate information and
 3 encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The board recognizes the
 4 primary role of parents in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to
 5 involve parents as provided in this policy. The comprehensive health education program
 6 provided by the school system will meet the requirements of the Basic Education Program
 7 (BEP), G.S. 115C-81(e1), and aligned state-adopted standards. The board may, in its discretion,
 8 expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to
 9 be met.

10
 11 **A. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM**

12
 13 A comprehensive health education program must be taught to students from kindergarten
 14 through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-
 15 appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health,
 16 family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and
 17 emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention,
 18 prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other
 19 communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.

20
 21 As required by law and beginning in seventh grade, reproductive health and safety
 22 education will include age-appropriate instruction on sexual abstinence until marriage,
 23 STDs, the human reproductive system, preventable risks for preterm birth in subsequent
 24 pregnancies, effective contraceptive methods for preventing pregnancy, awareness of
 25 sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness.

26
 27 **B. PARENTAL OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MATERIALS AND WITHHOLD CONSENT**
 28 **PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

29
 30 Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in
 31 other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the
 32 avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principal or designee shall notify parents of
 33 the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A
 34 copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the media center of
 35 each school where these subjects will be taught.

36
 37 **Parental permission shall be required before a student may participate in any reproductive**
 38 **health and safety education instruction.** The principal or designee shall ~~also~~ notify
 39 parents of the right to ~~withhold or withdraw consent~~ **grant or deny permission** for their
 40 child’s participation in all reproductive health and safety education instruction or in
 41 specific topics such as STDs, the effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods,
 42 awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and
 43 awareness. Parents may also ~~withhold consent~~ **grant or deny permission for to** a student’s
 44 participation in other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including

45 HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy. ~~Any parent wishing to~~
 46 ~~withhold consent must do in writing to the principal.~~

47
 48 Parental permission must be received in writing prior to a student’s participation in any
 49 reproductive health and safety education instruction. If parental permission is not granted
 50 or is otherwise not received, the student shall not be permitted to participate in such
 51 instruction and may be required to complete an alternate assignment.

52
 53 The principal or designee shall collect and maintain appropriate records of parental
 54 permission for all students participating in any reproductive health and safety education
 55 instruction.

56
 57 **C. STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION**

58
 59 For reproductive health and safety education, teachers shall follow the instructional
 60 objectives and only use the age-appropriate materials that have been made available to
 61 parents for review in accordance with this policy. Information conveyed during
 62 instruction will be objective and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and
 63 accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of sexual health education
 64 or other field authorized by law.

65
 66 A determination of what is an appropriate education for a student with disabilities must
 67 be made in accordance with the student’s individualized education plan, following all
 68 procedures as provided in the North Carolina *Policies Governing Services for Children*
 69 *with Disabilities*.

70
 71 Legal References: G.S. 115C art. 9; 115C-36, -81(e1); State Board of Education Policies GCS-
 72 D-000, GCS-F-007; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, available at
 73 [http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-](http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities)
 74 [disabilities](http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/policies/nc-policies-governing-services-for-children-with-disabilities)

75
 76 Cross References:

77
 78 Adopted:

79
 80
 81
 82