

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 state law and the objectives
 7 established by the State Board of Education. The board may, in its discretion, expand on the
 8 subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives to be met.
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10 **A. COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM**

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 12 A comprehensive health education program must be taught to students from kindergarten
 13 through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program must include age-
 14 appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health,
 15 family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and
 16 emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention,
 17 prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other
 18 communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education.
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20 *Instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality will not be included in the*
 21 *health education program in kindergarten through fourth grade (see also policy*
 22 *1310/4002, Parental Involvement).* As required by law and beginning in seventh grade,
 23 reproductive health and safety education will include age-appropriate instruction on
 24 sexual abstinence until marriage, STDs, the human reproductive system, preventable
 25 risks for preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies, the effectiveness of contraceptive
 26 methods in preventing pregnancy, awareness of sexual assault and sexual abuse, and sex
 27 trafficking prevention and awareness.
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29 **B. OPPORTUNITIES TO REVIEW MATERIALS AND PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR STUDENT**
 30 **PARTICIPATION**

31
 32 Each year before students participate in reproductive health and safety education or in
 33 other separate instruction on the prevention of STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the
 34 avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the principal or designee shall notify parents of
 35 the opportunity to review the materials and objectives that will be used in instruction. A
 36 copy of all objectives and materials will be available for review in the media center of
 37 each school where these subjects will be taught.
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39 Parental permission shall be required before a student may participate in any reproductive
 40 health and safety education instruction. The principal or designee shall notify parents of
 41 the right to grant or deny permission for their child’s participation in all reproductive
 42 health and safety education instruction or in specific topics such as STDs, the
 43 effectiveness and safety of contraceptive methods, awareness of sexual assault and sexual
 44 abuse, and sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Parents may also grant or deny

45 permission for a student's participation in other separate instruction on the prevention of
46 STDs, including HIV/AIDS, or the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

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

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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.

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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*.

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71 Legal References: G.S. 115C art. 9; 115C-36, -76.25(a)(1), -76.35(b)(5), -76.40, -76.55, -81.25, -
72 81.30; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education
73 Policy EXCP-000; State Board of Education Policy SCOS-007

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75 Cross References: **Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002)**

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77 Adopted: January 19, 2016

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79 Revised: March 5, 2018; [DATE]