

1 All decisions by the Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) related to student
2 behavior are guided by the board’s educational objective to teach responsibility and respect for
3 cultural and ideological differences and by the board’s commitment to creating safe, orderly, and
4 inviting schools. Student behavior policies are provided in order to establish (1) expected
5 standards of student behavior; (2) principles to be followed in managing student behavior; (3)
6 consequences for prohibited behavior; and (4) required procedures for addressing misbehavior.
7 **Teachers, school-based administrators, parents, and law enforcement will be consulted when**
8 **existing student behavior policies are revised or new such policies are created.**
9

10 **A. PRINCIPLES**

11
12 The reasons for managing student behavior are to (1) create an orderly environment in
13 which students can learn; (2) teach expected standards of behavior; (3) help students
14 learn to accept the consequences of their behavior; and (4) provide students with the
15 opportunity to develop self-control. The following principles apply in managing student
16 behavior.

- 17
18 1. Student behavior management strategies will complement other efforts to create a
19 safe, orderly, and inviting environment.
- 20
21 2. Positive behavioral interventions will be employed as appropriate to improve
22 student behavior.
- 23
24 3. Responsibility, integrity, civility, and other standards of behavior will be
25 integrated into the curriculum.
- 26
27 4. Disruptive behavior in the classroom will not be tolerated.
- 28
29 5. Consequences for unacceptable behavior will be designed to help a student learn
30 to comply with rules, to be respectful, to accept responsibility for his or her
31 behavior, and to develop self-control.
- 32
33 6. Strategies and consequences will be age and developmentally appropriate.

34 **B. COMMUNICATION OF POLICIES**

35
36 Board policies related to student behavior are codified mainly in the 4300 series. The
37 superintendent shall incorporate information from such policies into a Code of Student
38 Conduct that notifies students of the behavior expected of them, conduct that may subject
39 them to discipline, and the range of disciplinary measures that may be used by school
40 officials. At the discretion of the superintendent, the Code of Student Conduct may
41 include additional rules needed to implement the board’s student behavior policies. To
42 elaborate further on processes for addressing student misbehavior and the use of
43 intervention strategies and consequences, each school will create a student behavior
44

45 management plan that is consistent with the law, board policies, and the Code of Student
46 Conduct (see policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior). The Code
47 of Student Conduct must incorporate by reference any additional student behavior
48 standards, prohibited conduct, or disciplinary measures identified in student behavior
49 management plans developed by individual schools. The Code of Student Conduct must
50 not impose mandatory long-term suspension or expulsion for specific violations unless
51 otherwise provided in state or federal law.

52
53 At the beginning of each school year, principals shall make available to each student and
54 parent all of the following: (1) the Code of Student Conduct; (2) any board policies
55 related to behavior that are not part of the Code of Conduct; (3) any related
56 administrative procedures; (4) any additional discipline-related information from the
57 school's student behavior management plan, including behavior standards, prohibited
58 conduct, or disciplinary measures; and (5) any other school rules. This information must
59 be available at other times upon request and must be made available to students enrolling
60 during the school year and their parents.

61
62 For the purpose of board policies related to student behavior, all references to "parent"
63 include a parent, a legal guardian, a legal custodian, or another caregiver adult authorized
64 to enroll a student under policy 4120, Domicile or Residence Requirements.

65 66 C. APPLICABILITY

67
68 Students must comply with the Code of Student Conduct in the following circumstances:

- 69
70 1. while in any school building or on any school premises before, during, or after
71 school hours;
- 72
73 2. while on any bus or other vehicle as part of any school activity;
- 74
75 3. while waiting at any school bus stop;
- 76
77 4. during any school-sponsored activity or extracurricular activity;
- 78
79 5. when subject to the authority of school employees; and
- 80
81 6. at any other place or time when the student's behavior has or is reasonably
82 expected to have a direct and immediate impact on the orderly and efficient
83 operation of the schools or the safety of individuals in the school environment.

84
85 Notwithstanding the foregoing, students will not be disciplined for constitutionally
86 protected behavior. School officials are encouraged to consult with senior administrators
87 before regulating student expression that may be protected by the First Amendment to the
88 U.S. Constitution.

D. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Code of Student Conduct must be dealt with in accordance with the guidelines established in the school's behavior management plan (see policy 4302, School Plan for Management of Student Behavior).

1. Minor Violations

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct are those less severe infractions involving a lower degree of dangerousness and harm. Examples of minor violations include the use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, noncompliance with a staff directive, dress code violations, and minor physical altercations that do not involve a weapon or an injury. Aggravating circumstances, however, may justify treating an otherwise minor violation as a serious violation.

Minor violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in disciplinary measures or responses up to and including short-term suspension. Further information regarding the procedures for short-term suspensions is provided in policy 4351, Short-Term Suspension. Other disciplinary measures or responses may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. parental involvement, such as conferences;
- b. isolation or time-out for short periods of time;
- c. behavior improvement agreements;
- d. instruction in conflict resolution and anger management;
- e. peer mediation;
- f. individual or small group sessions with the school counselor;
- g. academic intervention;
- h. in-school suspension;
- i. detention before and/or after school or on Saturday;
- j. community service;
- k. exclusion from graduation ceremonies;

- 133
134 l. exclusion from extracurricular activities;
135
136 m. suspension from bus privileges; and
137
138 n. placement in an alternative school.
139

140 The student's parent is responsible for transportation that may be required to carry
141 out a consequence. With the exception of suspension from bus privileges, if a
142 parent is unable to provide transportation, another consequence will be
143 substituted.
144

145 2. Serious Violations
146

147 Serious violations of the Code of Student Conduct may result in any of the
148 consequences that may be imposed for minor violations. In addition, serious
149 violations that threaten to substantially disrupt the educational environment may
150 result in long-term suspension, and serious violations that threaten the safety of
151 students, school employees, or school visitors may result in long-term suspension
152 or expulsion. Certain violations involving firearms or explosive devices may
153 result in a 365-day suspension. Further information regarding the standards and
154 procedures for long-term suspensions, 365-day suspensions and expulsions is
155 provided in policies 4351, Short-Term Suspension, and 4353, Long-Term
156 Suspension, 365-Day Suspension, Expulsion. (See also policy 4333, Weapons,
157 Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety, for information
158 regarding 365-day suspensions for certain violations involving firearms or
159 explosive devices.)
160

161 **E. ENFORCEMENT**
162

163 The superintendent is responsible for supervising the enforcement of the Code of Student
164 Conduct to ensure that school disciplinary policies are uniformly and fairly applied
165 throughout the school system and consistent with students' constitutional rights.
166

167 Legal References: U.S. Const. amend. I; *Mahanoy Area School Dist. v. B.L.*, 594 U.S. ____, 141
168 S. Ct. 2038 (2021); G.S. 115C-47, -276(r), -288, -307, -390.1, -390.2
169

170 Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Counseling
171 Program (policy 3610), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Student Behavior
172 policies (4300 series)
173

174 Adopted: December 18, 2017
175

176 Revised: December 20, 2021; [DATE]