

CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Policy Code: 2120

The board recognizes that, collectively and individually, all members of the board must adhere to a code of ethics as required by G.S. 160A-86 and G.S. 115C-47(57). In accordance with this code, each member of the board will commit to the following:

- attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
- endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
- render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- encourage free expression of opinion by all board members, and seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff and all elements of the community;
- work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
- communicate to other board members and the superintendent expressions of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
- learn about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by the state and national school boards associations;
- support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest, and refrain from using the board member's position on the board for personal or partisan gain;
- take no private action that will compromise the board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law; and
- remember always that a board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.
- comply with North Carolina General Statute 115C-50 by earning the required 12 hours of training every two years;

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- comply with G.S. 160A-87 by earning two hours of ethics education within 12 months of election or appointment to the board.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47(1), -47(57), -50; 160A-86, -87; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 (1997)

Cross References: *Board Member Opportunities for Development (policy 2123)*

ADOPTED: August 9, 2004

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