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Descriptor Term:
CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Descriptor Code:
2.1200

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -50

Cross References:

The board recognizes collectively and individually that, all members of the board must adhere to an accepted code of ethics in order to improve public education. The board accepts the code of ethics established by the North Carolina School Boards Association. In accordance with this code, each member of the board shall 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 any independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
- encourage the 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 the board policies and school program;
- 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;
- comply with North Carolina General Statute 115C-50 by earning the required 12 hours of training annually;
- 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.

At the organizational meeting of the board, all newly elected board members shall sign a code of ethics statement that includes these provisions.