

1110 CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS

Board members will act ethically and in the best interest of students, the Edenton-Chowan Schools, and public education in the performance of their official duties. 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). While no code of ethics can address all situations, the Board adopts the following Code of Ethics to guide the performance of its members.

A. Board Member Ethical Requirements:

The following considerations will guide each board member in the performance of his or her official duties:

1. the need to obey all applicable state and federal laws regarding official actions taken as a board member;
2. the need to uphold the integrity and independence of board member's office;
3. the need to avoid impropriety in the exercise of the board's and board member's official duties;
4. the need to perform faithfully the duties of the office; and
5. the need to conduct the affairs of the board in an open and public manner, complying with all applicable laws governing open meetings and public records.

B. Members of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education shall:

1. attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
2. endeavor to make policy decisions while always keeping in mind the objective of providing students the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and only after full discussion at publicly held Board meetings;
3. render all decisions based on the available facts and the Board member's independent judgment, and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special interest groups;
4. remember at all times that an individual member has no legal authority outside the meetings of the Board, and conduct relationships with the school staff, local citizenry, and news media on the basis of this fact;
5. work with other Board members to establish effective Board policies and delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the Superintendent;
6. communicate to other Board members and the Superintendent expressions of public reaction to Board policies and the school program;
7. devote time, thought, and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school Board member, the state school laws, and the policies, rules and regulations of the state and local boards of education;
8. support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
9. resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a school Board member for personal benefit or benefit of any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school district;

10. conduct the affairs of their office in accordance with the character traits of citizenship, courage, fairness, honesty, kindness, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and self-discipline;
11. take no private action that will compromise the Board or administration, and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law;
12. remember always that a Board member's first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students who attend the public schools;
13. bear in mind that the primary function of the Board is to establish the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be left to the employed Superintendent of Schools and his/her professional and support staff unless otherwise provided by law;
14. not accept, directly or indirectly, gifts, monetary amounts or other items of value or any promise of favor or reward from any individual or organization that will serve to influence a decision or action of the Board, officer or employee of the Board, or any individual or group acting for or on behalf of the Board;
15. fulfill all requirements of [Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes](#) and other duties and obligations imposed by law in a professional manner;
16. comply with [North Carolina General Statute 115C-50](#) by earning ~~annually~~ the required 12 hours of training every two years; and
17. comply with [G.S. 160A-87](#) by earning two hours of ethics education within 12 months of their initial election or appointment to the board and each subsequent appointment or election.

LEGAL REF: [G.S. 115C-36, -47\(1\), -47\(57\), -50; 160A-86, -87; *Leandro v. State*, 346 N.C. 336 \(1997\)](#)

[CROSS REF: Board Member Development \(Policy 1120\)](#)

ADOPTED: June 7, 2004

AMENDED: November 2, 2009; March 5, 2012

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION