The Cleveland County Board of Education (the “board”) is a body corporate and has general control and supervision of all matters pertaining to the public schools of the school system and the authority to enforce the school law. All powers and duties conferred and imposed by law respecting public schools, which are not expressly conferred and imposed upon some other official, are conferred and imposed by law upon the board.

The board will provide a system of schools; establish general policies in keeping with the needs of the community and the requirements of state law; and perform all specific duties imposed by law.

The Cleveland County Board of Education possesses broad authority to establish policy, make fiscal decisions, and review decisions of school personnel. The board shall provide for a school system and establish general policies, as well as perform all specific duties imposed by statute. The responsibility for carrying out policies adopted by the board is vested in the superintendent or designee.

Official actions of the board can be made only at duly constituted board meetings, committee meetings, or meetings of a duly designated hearing panel of the board. An individual board member or groups of board members do not have independent authority to make commitments on behalf of the board outside of board meetings unless such authority is granted by the board. No member of the board, including the chair, may individually give orders or directives to the superintendent or any other school employee except as expressly authorized by the board.

Among the responsibilities of the board are the following:

1. Providing every student with the opportunity to receive a sound basic education as defined by the North Carolina Supreme Court in \textit{Leandro v. State};
2. Hiring the superintendent, supporting him or her in the discharge of duties, and evaluating his or her job performance;
3. Establishing school attendance areas;
4. Considering and acting on appeals from administrative decisions;
5. Developing a plan to ensure the safety of all students and employees;
6. Establishing a school calendar;
7. Providing leadership and direction through the formulation of goals and objectives, especially in defining and setting high academic standards for student success;
8. Employing all staff members based upon the recommendation of the superintendent;
9. Approving the budget, financial reports, and audits;
10. Determining the need for and seeking funds for the operation, support, maintenance, improvement, and extension of the school system;
11. Providing for the planning, expansion, improvement, financing, construction, maintenance, use, and disposition of physical plants of the school system;
12. Prescribing the minimum standards needed for the efficient operation and improvement of the school system;
13. Evaluating the educational program to determine effectiveness in achieving goals of the school system;
14. Requiring the establishment and maintenance of records, accounts, archives, management methods, and procedures considered essential to the efficient conduct of school business;
15. Assuring compliance with state and federal law;
16. Providing for the dissemination to the public of information relating to the Cleveland County Schools;
17. Exercising general control and supervision over the public schools of the district remaining knowledgeable of the operations of the school district, and fulfilling other duties as prescribed by law; and
18. Being an advocate for the school system, for employees, and especially for students in all interactions with other governmental entities and the public.


Adopted: November 14, 2016

Replaces: Board Policy 1300, School Board Authority and Responsibilities