

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Date: March 11, 2003

To: Board of Education

From: Dr. J. Hairston, Superintendent

Subject: Policy 6166 - Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks

Originator: Christine Johns, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

Resource Staff: Ron Boone, Executive Director, Federal & State Programs
Della Curtis, Coordinator, Library Information Services

Recommendation

That the Board of Education approves recommended changes to Policy 6166 – Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks

Policy 6166

INSTRUCTION: Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

The Board of Education of Baltimore County recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies change the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board of Education expects that the employees will integrate thoughtful use of electronic resources throughout the curriculum. The Board supports access by students to information resources along with the development by employees of appropriate skills to access, analyze, and evaluate such resources.

For students, telecommunications in the Baltimore County Public Schools are for educational purposes, such as, accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting innovation in learning. Learning how to use this wealth of information and how to communicate electronically are fundamental to prepare citizens and future employees for the 21st century.

Telecommunications extends the classroom beyond the school building by providing access to information resources on local, state, national, and international electronic networks. Telecommunications, because they may lead students to any publicly available fileservers in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources that may change daily and which have not been evaluated by educators for use by students of various ages. The Board of Education expects that employees will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources as specified in the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students Form (Series 6166, Form A) and the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Employees Form (Series 4006, Form A).

Students shall be held responsible for appropriate behavior as specified in the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students Form (Series 6166, Form A).

The Baltimore County Public Schools will [attempt to] employ reasonable precautions to the extent practical to make [which attempt to ensure that use of] telecommunications [is a safe] part of an appropriate learning environment for students. [The Board believes that the benefits to learning and teaching exceed most disadvantages.]

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to develop appropriate procedures for implementing this policy, to review and evaluate its effect on student achievement and instruction, and to develop appropriate discipline procedures.

Legal References

Federal

- Children's Internet Protection Act, as codified at 47 U.S.C. §254(h)
- Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. §2701-2711
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("Buckley Amendment"), 20 U.S.C. §1232g
- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §794d
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e

Annotated Code of Maryland

- Education Article, §7-305 Suspensions and Expulsions
- §7-308 Searches of Students and Schools
- §26-101 Disrupting Activities at Schools or Colleges

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)

- 13A.05.02.03.03BH Accessibility of Technology Based Instructional Products
- 13A.05.04.01 Public School Library Programs
- 13A.08.01.10 Guidelines for Students' Responsibilities and Rights
- 13A.08.01.11 Disciplinary Action
- 13A.08.01.11B Suspension and Expulsion
- 13A.08.01.14 Search and Seizures

Also See Board Policy, 5550, 5570, 5660 – Students

Policy adopted: 6/9/97

Board of Education Baltimore County

REVISED February 2003