

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 25, 2004

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston

SUBJECT: **PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT POLICY 1270
AND RULE 1270**

ORIGINATOR: Arlene K. Fleischmann, Director of the Department of Professional Development

**RESOURCE
PERSON:** Linda Cassell, Coordinator, Title I and Grant Assistance Office

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education review and approve the revised Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement Policy 1270 and review the revised Rule 1270.

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Provide a brief description if applicable

The Maryland State Department of Education requires all county school systems to have a Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement Policy. Federal regulations through the *No Child Left Behind Act 2001* require a Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement Policy for Title I funding. In 1991, the Board of Education approved Policy 1270, Family/Community Involvement, which has been revised as the Parent/Guardian and Family Involvement Policy, aligned with Goals 6 and 7 of the *Blueprint for Progress* and the Master Plan. The revisions to Policy 1270 reflect federal requirements, the guidelines for the framework of Maryland's statewide policy, and the National PTA standards. The accompanying Rule 1270 has also been revised.

The following groups of individuals have developed or reviewed Policy 1270: parents, advisory council members, selected principals, PTA, TABCO, Executive Directors of Schools, the Division of Curriculum and Instruction staff, the Division of Business Services staff, Council to the Superintendent, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Board Ad Hoc Committee for Policy Review.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: [Family/Community] PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY Involvement

[Family and community involvement is a critical dimension of effective schooling. Research shows that students of all ability levels are more successful when they receive the continuing support of parents and other adults. Research has also indicated that schools in every community they serve can develop effective programs to involve families in their students' education. The major goal is to promote greater success in all curricular areas for students by making schools, families, and communities more productive partners.] THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY BELIEVES THAT SCHOOLS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, AND FAMILIES HAVE A MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK TOGETHER IN ORDER TO INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY WELCOMES PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AND BELIEVES THIS INVOLVEMENT IS INTEGRAL TO THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF ALL STUDENTS.

[The foundation for effective school, family, and community partnerships is communication. The schools have the major responsibility to keep families and the community informed about school programs, students' progress, and practical ways that parents and the community can promote success. Schools must use strategies that foster two-way communication with all families, respecting the diversity and differing needs of families and the communities that they serve.] THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT SCHOOLS INVOLVE PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF CHILDREN OF ALL AGES AND GRADE LEVELS REGARDLESS OF THE PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S AND FAMILY'S EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, RACE/ETHNICITY, GENDER, SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS, GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, PRIMARY LANGUAGE, OR DISABILITY. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY RECOGNIZES THAT THE TYPE AND THE DEGREE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT VARIES AMONG HOUSEHOLDS.

[Strategies and systematic planning must be used to promote varied opportunities for families to be effective in the schooling process. These include opportunities for home learning activities, volunteering, attendance at school events, participation in parent education workshops, participation in school governance organizations, involvement in school site councils, and serving as advocates for children. Appropriate programs should be available at every grade level to sustain family involvement from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.] THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY ENDORSES COOPERATION AMONG SCHOOLS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ORDER TO INCREASE INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN PROMOTING THE SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ACADEMIC GROWTH OF STUDENTS BY UTILIZING THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1. COMMUNICATING – OPEN AND ONGOING COMMUNICATION IS PROMOTED AMONG HOME, SCHOOL, AND THE COMMUNITY.
2. PARENTING – PARENTING SKILLS ARE FOSTERED AND SUPPORTED.
3. STUDENT LEARNING – PARENTS/GUARDIANS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN ASSISTING STUDENT LEARNING.
4. VOLUNTEERING – PARENTS/GUARDIANS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AS VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOL. THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE ARE SOUGHT, ENCOURAGED, AND RECOGNIZED.
5. SCHOOL DECISION-MAKING AND ADVOCACY – PARENTS/GUARDIANS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INCLUDED AS MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM.
6. COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY – COMMUNITY RESOURCES ARE USED TO STRENGTHEN SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND STUDENT LEARNING.

[The Board of Education recognizes that students are members of a larger community and that schools are part of a larger network of learning environments. Schools can serve as focal points in collaborative efforts to connect students and families with community organizations, businesses, social services, and government agencies. These groups can provide enrichment and support to families and schools in the important job of educating students and can increase the likelihood that students will remain in school and will increase the potential for their school success.] BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE *NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT 2001* RELATING TO PARENT/GUARDIAN AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THIS POLICY.

Legal References: Strengthening and Improving of Elementary and Secondary Schools, 20 United States Code (USC), Section 6318 (No Child Left Behind Act 2001)

Policy
Adopted: 5/23/91
REVISED:

Board of Education of Baltimore County