

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: April 12, 2005

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **POLICY AND RULE 5110 - ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE:**
ADMISSION

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Christine M. Johns, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

RESOURCE

PERSON(S): Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director, Elementary Programs

INFORMATION

That the Board of Education approve the proposed changes to Policy 5110.

The Department of Elementary Programs is seeking approval of changes to Board Policy 5110 Students: Enrollment and Attendance – Admission. The recommendation is that Baltimore County Public Schools revise Policy and Rule 5110 to be consistent with the State Board of Education regulations COMAR 13A.08.01.02 changing the entrance date from December 31 to September 1. This is the first reading of this policy.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis for 5110
Attachment II - Draft revision of Board Policy 5110

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed New Policy and Rule 5110:
STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance - Admission

Statement of Issues Addressed By the Proposed Policy

Currently, Policy and Rule 5110 state that kindergarten children are age-eligible for enrollment if their fifth (5th) birthday falls on or before December 31. During the 2001 legislative session, House Bill 557 was introduced to change the enrollment “cut off” date from December 31 to the earlier date of September 1. Maryland was one of only four states where the enrollment “cut off” date was December 31. The Maryland Kindergarten Committee, organized by the Maryland State Department of Education at the direction of Dr. Nancy Grasmick, was asked to examine the implications for changing the date to September 1.

The recommendation of the Maryland Kindergarten Committee was to change the entrance date from December 31 to September 1. The change of four months was determined to begin in school year 2003-04 and be changed at a rate of one month per year to be fully implemented by school year 2007-08.

On May 21, 2002, the State Board of Education adopted the repeal of existing Regulation .02 and new Regulation .02 under COMAR 13A.08.01 General Regulation. This action was taken at a public meeting. Effective date of the regulation was June 24, 2002. Therefore, the recommendation is that Baltimore County Public Schools revise Policy and Rule 5110 to be consistent with the State Board of Education regulations.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

There is no new fiscal impact on the system as a result of the proposed policy and rule.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

A related policy as designated in the policy is:
5120 STUDENTS: Attendance and Excuses

Legal Requirement

The legal references included in this policy and rule include:
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-101,
Admission of Students, §7-301 Compulsory Attendance
State Board of Education Bylaw

Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”)

13A.10.01 General Regulations

13A.10.01 Subtitle 10 Home Instruction

13A.08.01.01B Attendance

13A.08.01.02 Age for School Attendance

13A.08.02.02B Age for School Attendance, Kindergarten

13A.08.01.02-2 Exceptions to Kindergarten Attendance Requirement

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

As a result of the adoption of new State Board of Education regulations, all public schools in the state of Maryland have revised their policies and regulations governing age of entry.

Draft of Proposed Policy and Rule (see attached)

Other Alternative Considered By Staff

Since the adoption of new regulations under COMAR 13A.08.01.02 were initiated by the Maryland State Board of Education, no alternatives to the proposed policy and rule were considered.

STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance

Admission

Children who are five (5) years of age on or before [December 31 of] OCTOBER 31, 2004 FOR THE 2004-2005 school year, AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 FOR THE 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR SHALL [must] be enrolled in kindergarten. THEREAFTER, CHILDREN WHO ARE FIVE (5) YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 SHALL BE ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN.

PARENTS WISHING AN exception to this requirement [are] MAY COMPLETE THE *Waiver for KINDERGARTEN (Level of Maturity)*, [the] place[ment] THE CHILD in an approved alternative setting, INITIATE [or] home instruction, OR FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES IN THE *GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING FOR EARLY ENROLLMENT INTO KINDERGARTEN*.

Every [child] PARENT/GUARDIAN must present [at] his/her [first enrollment in preschool, kindergarten, or grade one in a county public school a] CHILD’S birth certificate or other satisfactory evidence of [his/her] age AT HIS/HER FIRST ENROLLMENT IN A COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-101,
Admission of Students, §7-301 Compulsory Attendance
Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”)
13A.08.01.02 Age for School Attendance
13A.08.02.02B Age for School Attendance, Kindergarten
13A.08.01.02-2 Exceptions to Kindergarten Attendance
Requirement

Policy Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 11/12/70

Revised: 7/12/84

Revised: 7/11/85

REVISED: _____