

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: September 5, 2007

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5510 – STUDENTS: POSITIVE BEHAVIOR**

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services
Patsy Holmes, Director, Student Support Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the revisions to Policy 5510.
This is the third reading of the policy.

Attachment I: Policy Analysis 5510
Attachment II: Policy 5510

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Revisions to Board of Education Policy 5510
STUDENTS: Positive Behavior

Statement of issues or questions to be addressed by the proposed policy

The Department of Student Support Services is in the process of reviewing the policies in the 5000 Series. The department is recommending major revisions to the policy to comply with new COMAR regulations to address student behavior. More importantly, the policy reflects the Board's commitment to review its policies, to the best of its ability, on a five year cycle.

Fiscal Impact on the school system

No fiscal impact is anticipated or contemplated by this revision.

Relationship to other Board of Education Policies

This policy needed to be revised to be in compliance with COMAR regulations. It has not been revised since 1972.

Legal requirements, such as federal, state or local laws or regulations

Md. Ed. Art. § 7-1101 provides that "Behavior Intervention Plan" mean a proactive plan designed to address problem behavior exhibited by a student in the educational setting through the use of positive behavioral interventions, strategies, and supports."

Similar Policies adopted by other school systems

HARFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Number 0022-000, Student Behavior Intervention

<http://www.hcps.org/BOE/PoliciesProcedures/docs/students.pdf>

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Number 9200-3431, Students Behavior

<http://www.hcpss.org/board/policies/9000.pdf>

A draft of the proposed policy

See attached

Other alternatives that were considered by the Board members

The Department of Student Support Services did not consider other alternatives.

STUDENTS: Conduct

[School Discipline] POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

[Good discipline] POSITIVE BEHAVIOR in the school is extremely important to the [school program] MAINTENANCE OF SAFE AND ORDERLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS. Without [good discipline] POSITIVE BEHAVIOR IN the school STUDENTS WILL NOT REACH EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENT STANDARDS. [cannot discharge its primary responsibility in the development of citizenship.] [Without good discipline students cannot realize their greatest opportunities for growth.] In maintaining [discipline] POSITIVE BEHAVIOR, EACH SCHOOL IS EXPECTED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SCHOOL-WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN. THIS PLAN SHOULD SET FORTH EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS. CHARACTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY SHOULD BE INTEGRAL COMPONENTS OF THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN. [teachers must be able to proceed with the assurance that support will be forthcoming from the principal, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education.]

The following guideLINES [to] FOR [good discipline] POSITIVE BEHAVIOR are recommended:

1. THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLANNING GUIDE IS TO BE USED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A SCHOOLWIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN.
2. THE SCHOOL'S POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN SHALL INCLUDE A CODE OF CONDUCT, ROUTINES AND PROCEDURES THAT ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND ASSESSED FOR EFFECTIVENESS ON AN ONGOING BASIS.
3. ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL STAFF.
4. PRINCIPAL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS AND STAFF SHALL TEACH STUDENTS THE SCHOOL'S CODE OF CONDUCT, ROUTINES, PROCEDURES AND DISCIPLINE AND STUDENTS SHALL BE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY IN SCHOOL.

5. CHARACTER EDUCATION SHALL BE A COMPONENT OF THE SCHOOL'S POSITIVE BEHAVIOR PLAN.
6. CHARACTER EDUCATION SHALL BE INCLUDED IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AS AN ONGOING TEACHING PROCESS TO HELP DEVELOP IN STUDENTS A STRONG VALUES SYSTEM AND PROMOTE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND ETHICAL DECISION MAKING.
7. MODELING OF GOOD CHARACTER IS EXPECTED OF ALL STAFF.
 1. Good discipline is usually positive rather than negative in nature. It consists of keeping students interested and busy doing something constructive rather than punishing them for doing things that are antisocial
 2. Good discipline is always fair, dignified, and in good temper.
 3. Conferences with teachers, principals, and parents should be effectively employed to bring about acceptable classroom behavior.
 4. In compliance with State Board of Education Bylaw 13A.08.01.06B, corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure is prohibited.

Teachers experiencing difficulty in coping with disciplinary problems should make efforts to take appropriate courses to become more skillful in dealing with both normal and disruptive behavior The Board will provide, to the extent possible, in-service training courses in behavior modification, human relationships, adolescent psychology, and other subjects which will increase understanding of behavior manifestations and which will aid teachers in discipline.]

[When circumstances require a conference because of a problem of behavior, teachers shall be involved and are expected to participate in such conferences at a reasonable time designated by the principal.

In cases where it is desired by school administrators or teachers that parents come to the school for a conference, a Required Parent Conference notification form (BEBCO 84-41-69) will be sent home. The form will specify that if the parent does not appear for the conference, a formal suspension will be issued. It will not be necessary to send copies of the Required Parent Conference notification form to the Office of Pupil Personnel; however, copies will be kept on file in the school.]

Policy
Adopted: 4/13/72
REVISED:

Board of Education of Baltimore County