

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: December 18, 2007

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **RE-ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6104: FIELD TRIPS AND FOREIGN TRAVEL**

ORIGINATOR: Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Yvonne Barhight, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Humanities

RECOMMENDATION

Policy 6104 was reviewed and approved by the Board of Education on September 9, 2002. No revisions have been made since that time; therefore, it is requested that Policy 6104 be re-adopted. This is the third reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 6104

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

Policy Analysis for Proposed Revision to Policy 6104

INSTRUCTION: Field Trips and Foreign Travel

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy Revision

Policy is being submitted for re-adoption, with non-substantive format changes, in its current form.

Cost Analysis

There is no cost associated with the re-adoption.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

None

Legal Requirement

None

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

Draft of Proposed Policy

A copy of Policy 6104 is attached.

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

Policy 6104 is sufficient in its current form.

Timeline

Opportunity for Citizen Comment, December 4, 2007

Proposed Date of Adoption, December 18, 2007

Instruction

Field Trips and Foreign Travel

The Board of Education OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) recognizes the field trip as an integral part of the instructional program.

Field trips shall demonstrate recognition of students' needs, interests, and abilities as evidenced by careful planning; they shall be designed to support, enhance, and extend, classroom instruction and curriculum at all levels; and they shall capitalize on resources including historic sites, museums, and cultural exhibits, expanding students' horizons beyond the immediate community. When participating in field trips, students have the opportunity to develop and foster skills in real world settings, as well as to apply information learned in an academic setting to a practical setting. As an outgrowth of participation in field trips, students shall engage in reflection and meaningful follow-up.

Field trips, clearly aligned to and a logical outgrowth of the Essential Curriculum, shall be available to Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) students as part of a planned program. Enrichment through field trips is not intended to supplant this Essential Curriculum. While field trips serve as one means for broadening student experiences, the safety and security of the students, as well as the appropriate use of instructional time and personnel, are foremost in importance.

While on an approved field trip, participating students are expected to adhere to behavior expectations outlined in Board Policy 5550, STUDENTS: Conduct, Disruptive Behavior, and Board Policy 5560, STUDENTS: Conduct, Suspension or Expulsion.

The Board [of Education] further recognizes that secondary students may desire to participate in foreign travel programs which provide a unique opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge of other cultures. It is the expectation of the Board [of Education] that the staff shall consider the safety and security of students in planning and granting approval for foreign travel.

Further, the staff shall inform the Superintendent of the foreign travel programs operating in [the Baltimore County Public Schools] BCPS.

Specific information shall be made available to parents, guardians, and interested persons regarding the educational value related to the curriculum, the risks of financial loss, and logistics. While foreign travel is a vehicle for extending student experiences, the appropriate use of instructional time and personnel is foremost in importance.

While on approved foreign travel, participating students are to adhere to behavior expectations outlined in Board Policy 5550, STUDENTS: Conduct, Disruptive Behavior, and Board Policy 5560, STUDENTS: Conduct, Suspension or Expulsion.

The Board [of Education] does not assume financial liability for field trips or foreign travel including, but not limited to, refunds or cancellations for any reason.

Legal ReferenceS: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND*, EDUCATION ARTICLE, §7-308 [Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)] COMAR 13A.08.01.01[, General Regulations: Attendance]

[Also see]RELATED POLICIES:

BOARD OF EDUCATION Policy 5550, [STUDENTS: Conduct,] Disruptive Behavior

BOARD OF EDUCATION Policy 5560, [STUDENTS: Conduct,] Suspension or Expulsion

BOARD OF EDUCATION Policy 8363, [ETHICS CODE:] Conflict of Interest

BOARD OF EDUCATION Policy 8362, [ETHICS CODE:] Gifts

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 11/21/68

Revised: 4/25/95

Revised: 9/9/02

RE-ADOPTED: _____