

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** March 11, 2008

**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO 6115.1 (RENUMBERED TO POLICY 6116) – INSTRUCTION: PATRIOTIC EXERCISES**

**ORIGINATOR:** Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer

**RESOURCE**

**PERSON(S):** Yvonne Barhight, Acting Assistant Superintendent, Department of Humanities  
Sonja Karwacki, Executive Director

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education review and approve the proposed changes to Policy 6115.1, renumbered to Policy 6116. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 6115.1 (renumbered to Policy 6116)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
Policy Analysis for Proposed Changes to the  
Policy 6115.1 Renumbered to Policy 6116 – Instruction, Patriotic Exercises

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy

This policy was last revised in 1969. The original policy statement is still valid and therefore staff recommends no change. Minor amendments allow for staff members and students to be excused from participation in the flag salute.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

There is no fiscal impact on the school system, and it conforms with current practice in supplying flags.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Policy 6115, Ceremonies and Observances

Policy 5600, Students' Rights or Responsibilities

Legal Requirement

According to the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, Section 7-105, each local school system shall adopt rules and regulations for the proper care, custody, or display of the flag.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

Policies from Anne Arundel, Fairfax, Frederick, Harford, and Montgomery Counties were reviewed and analyzed.

Draft of Proposed Policies and rules – (see attached)

Policy 6115.1 renumbered as Policy 6116

Other Alternatives Considered By Staff

N/A

INSTRUCTION

Patriotic Exercises

Provisions shall be made for the display of the flag of the United States of America on the site of each school, office, classroom or other installation of the Board of Education of Baltimore County and for the display of said flag in each classroom of every Baltimore County Public Schools.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent [of Schools] to provide for appropriate patriotic exercises in the public schools. [There] E[e]xercises shall include the DAILY [frequent] recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. [and proper recognition of national holidays]

ANY STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER, WHO WISHES TO BE EXCUSED FROM THE PARTICIPATION IN A FLAG SALUTE SHALL BE EXCUSED.

LEGAL REFERENCE: *MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE*, EDUCATION ARTICLE § 7-105

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5600  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6115

Policy  
[Adopted: 10/31/69]  
ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County