

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: April 8, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY 3410 – TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

ORIGINATOR: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent

**RESOURCE
PERSON(S):** Michele Prumo, Executive Director of Planning and Support Operations
Linda Fitchett, Director of Transportation

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education considers the proposed changes to Policy 3410 – Transportation Services. This is the first reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 3410

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed Revision to Policy 3410:
Transportation Services

Statement of Issues Addressed By the Proposed Policy Revision

Policy 3410 was originally adopted by the Board of Education in September 1968 and addresses the responsibilities and duties for providing transportation services for eligible students. The policy has not been updated since November 1996. The proposed revision updates the language to reflect current regulations, best practices, responsibilities, and the current office title.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

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

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Related policies as designated in the policy are: 3420, Routes and Services and 3430, Procedures for Emergencies

Legal Requirement

The legal references included in this policy:

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Articles §7 – 801.

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Articles §7 – 805.

Similar Polices Adopted by Other School Systems

Policies for Transportation Services in Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Howard County Public Schools, and Montgomery County Public Schools were reviewed and analyzed as listed below:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Policy Name: Student Transportation Services
Policy #: 700

Howard County Public Schools
Policy Name: Pupil Transportation
Policy #: 5111

Montgomery County Public Schools
Policy Name: Student Transportation
Policy #: 44-7

Draft of Proposed Policy and Rule (see attached)

Other Alternative Considered By Staff

Proposed revisions were submitted after review of transportation operating procedures in three other Maryland counties.

First Reader, April 8, 2008

Citizen Comment, April 22, 2008

Proposed Date of Approval, May 6, 2008

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Transportation Services

Responsibilities and Duties

The [Department] OFFICE of Transportation shall be organized to provide school transportation service for eligible students based on safety, efficiency, adequacy, and economy. THE BOARD HEREBY DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH RULES TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY [Through the use of publicly owned and privately owned buses, the following shall be taken into consideration in developing the school transportation system:]

[1. Every school bus ride in itself is a learning experience, and the school bus ride should also leave students in the proper frame of mind to take full advantage of the instructional program offered.]

[2. Certain rules and regulations pertaining to the transportation of public school students in the State of Maryland have been established. Items covered are as follows:]

[a. Specifications governing [new] school bus equipment:]

[All school buses, both Board of Education and contracted school buses, shall fully meet the specifications as established by:]

[(1) Maryland State Department of Education]

[(2) Maryland Vehicle Law, Transportation Article]

[(3) Board of Education of Baltimore County.]

[b. Inspection]

[All buses shall be regularly inspected a minimum of three (3) times each year. Unannounced inspections, as deemed necessary, may be made by the Department of Transportation each year.]

[c. School bus drivers]

[All drivers shall meet the qualifications of the Annotated Code and Bylaws. Drivers shall pass a physical examination prior to employment and once a year during each year of employment. This examination must be made by a

physician registered by the Maryland State Board of Medical Examiners. The Department of Transportation, Baltimore County Public Schools, shall maintain a list of physicians willing to conduct these examinations for a fee to be established in the annual budget. The physician shall complete Form DL-122 (7-80).]

[d. Driving regulations]

- [3. Certain other driving regulations governing school buses are set forth in the Maryland Vehicle Law, Transportation Article.]
- [4. The Board of Education shall establish its school bus system to conform to or exceed minimum standards as set forth by the State.]

[Occasionally, students eligible for free bus service are requested by the Board of Education to use public transportation serving their area. This service is paid for by the Board of Education.]

1. School bus transportation is provided under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education FROM ESTABLISHED STOPS for elementary and middle school students who must walk more than one (1) mile to the assigned school.
2. School bus transportation is provided under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education FROM ESTABLISHED STOPS for high school students who must walk more than one-and-one-half (1-1/2) miles to the assigned school.
3. SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM ESTABLISHED STOPS AT MIDDAY FOR ALL HALF-DAY PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS.
4. THE SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS WHILE WALKING TO, FROM, OR WAITING AT THE ESTABLISHED BUS STOP IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENTS' PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.
5. THE SUPERVISION OF NON-TRANSPORTED STUDENTS TO AND FROM SCHOOL IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENTS' PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.

POLICY 3410

[The preceding statements of policy concerning walking distances of students to school shall be adhered to except when circumstances and surrounding road conditions necessitate a change. In these cases, some few students may be required to walk a distance in excess of the stated limits, or others who live within the limits may be transported. Cases will be individually considered by the Superintendent of Schools and the staff.]

[Board of Education buses are generally available for authorized field trips. Procedures for the use of these buses are established by the Transportation Department, and guidelines are published annually. If public school buses are not available, schools are urged to use properly certified and insured contracted transportation]

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §§7-801-805
[#4-119 Consolidation of schools; transportation of students]
[Annotated Code of Maryland, Transportation Article]
[#1 et seq. Vehicle Laws Department of Transportation Bylaws
11A.19.05.01]
[Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article,]
[Title 7 Public Schools (7-608)]

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 9/18/68
Revised: 6/19/80
Revised: 8/20/81
Revised: 3/23/89
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REVISED: _____