

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** April 22, 2008

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6166 – INSTRUCTION: INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES - TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND NETWORKS**

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

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Michael J. Goodhues, Chief Information Officer

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education approved changes to Policy 6166. This is the third reading of this revised policy.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 6166

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY**  
**Policy Analysis for Proposed Changes to the**  
**Policy 6166 and Rule 6166 – Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information,**  
**Services, and Networks**

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy

This policy and rule were last revised in 2003. Due to the dynamic nature of technology and its opportunities it provides to our educational community, the proposed revision will ensure application of instructional, safety, and privacy issues as well as compliance with federal laws impacting telecommunications in the Baltimore County Public Schools. In addition, the recommended revision will allow for a protocol that will enable educators to more easily utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century technologies in teaching, learning, and communication.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

There is no fiscal impact on the school system.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Related Board Policies and Rules:

- 1110 – Community Relations – Communication with the Public
- 4005 – Personnel – General – Dating or Sexual Relations Between Staff and Students
- 4115 – Personnel – Professional – Responsibilities, Duties, and Code of Ethics
- 5220 – Students – Reporting to Parents
- 5230 – Students: Elementary and Secondary – Student Records
- 5440 – Students: Elementary and Secondary – Child Abuse and Neglect
- 5570 – Students: Elementary and Secondary – Student to Student Sexual Harassment
- 6163.2 – Instruction – Selection of Instructional Materials
- 6166 – Instruction – Telecommunications Access to Electronic, Services, and Networks
- 8363 – Ethics Code – Conflict of Interest
- 8365 – Ethics Code – Lobbying Disclosure

Legal Requirement

Each local school system must develop a written policy addressing acceptable use of telecommunications for Maryland Technology Plan as well as to qualify for the e-rate.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

Telecommunications policies and regulations from Harford, Howard, Prince Georges, Carroll, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties were reviewed and analyzed.

Draft of Proposed Policies and rules – (see attached)

Other Alternatives Considered By Staff

No alternatives are appropriate due to the FCC regulation in order to take advantage of the e-rate discount.

## INSTRUCTION

Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (BOARD) recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies change the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The Board [of Education] expects that the employees will integrate thoughtful use of electronic resources throughout the curriculum. The Board supports access by students to information resources along with the development by employees of appropriate skills to access, analyze, and evaluate such resources.

For students, telecommunications in the Baltimore County Public Schools are for educational purposes, such as accessing curriculum-related information, sharing resources, and promoting innovation in learning. Learning how to use this wealth of information and how to communicate electronically are fundamental to prepare citizens and future employees for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. STUDENTS SHALL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AS SPECIFIED IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS FORM (SERIES 6166, FORM A).

Telecommunications extend the classroom beyond the school building by providing access to information resources on local, state, national, [and] international, AND COMMERCIAL electronic networks. Telecommunications, because they may lead students to any publicly available fileserver in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources that may change daily and which have not been evaluated by educators for use by students of various ages. The Board of Education expects that employees will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources as specified in the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students Form (Series 6166, Form A) and the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Employees Form (Series 4006, Form A).

[Students shall be held responsible for appropriate behavior as specified in the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Students Form (Series 6166, Form A).

[The Baltimore County Public Schools will employ reasonable precautions to the extent practical to make telecommunications part of an appropriate learning environment for students.]

The Board [of Education] authorizes the Superintendent to develop appropriate procedures for implementing this policy, to review and evaluate its effect on student achievement and instruction, and to develop appropriate discipline procedures.

Legal References: 47 U.S.C. §254(h) (Children’s Internet Protection Act)  
18 U.S.C. §§2701-2711 (Electronic Communications Privacy Act)  
20 U.S.C. §1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) [ (“Buckley Amendment”) ]  
20 U.S.C. §794d (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) [Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e]  
*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-305 [Suspensions and Expulsions]  
*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-308 [Searches of Students and Schools]  
*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §26-101 [Disrupting Activities at Schools or Colleges]  
COMAR 13A.05.02.13H  
COMAR 13A.05.04.01  
COMAR 13A.08.01.11  
COMAR 13A.08.01.14

[Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)]

- 13A.05.02.03.03BH Accessibility of Technology Based Instructional Products
- 13A.05.04.01 Public School Library Programs
- 13A.08.01.10 Guidelines for Students’ Responsibilities and Rights
- 13A.08.01.11 Disciplinary Action
- 13A.08.01.11B Suspension and Expulsion
- 13A.08.01.14 Search and Seizures

Also see Board Policy 5550, 5570, 5660 – Students.]

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5550  
Board of Education Policy 5570  
Board of Education Policy 5660

Policy Board of Education of Baltimore County  
Adopted: 6/9/97  
Revised: 3/11/03  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_