

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** October 21, 2008

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8365 – ETHICS CODE: LOBBYING DISCLOSURE**

**ORIGINATOR:** Frances A. S. Harris

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Margaret-Ann F. Howie, Esq., General Counsel  
Edward J. Novak, Esq., Associate General Counsel

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 8365. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the State Ethics Commission. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 8365

**Policy Analysis for  
Board of Education Policy 8365  
Lobbying Disclosure**

Statement of Issues or Questions to be Addressed

Board of Education Policy 8365 was revised to include recommendations that were made by the State Ethics Committee.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

No fiscal impact is anticipated by this revision.

Relationship to other Board of Education Policies

None

Legal Requirements

*Annotated Code of Maryland*, State Government Article §15-701 - §15-715, §15-814

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

None

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

None

Timeline:

First reading: October 21, 2008

Public comment: November 5, 2008

Third reading: December 2, 2008

ETHICS CODE: Lobbying Disclosure

Any person who personally appears before any Board member or employee with the intent to influence that person in performance of his or her official duties, and who, in connection with such intent expends or reasonably expects to expend in a given calendar year a cumulative value in excess of \$25 on food, entertainment, or other gifts, shall file a registration statement with the Ethics Review Panel no later than January 15 of the calendar year or within five (5) days after first making such appearances.

The registration statement shall include complete identification of the registrant and of any other person on whose behalf the registrant acts. It shall also identify the subject matter on which the registrant proposes to make such appearances and shall cover a defined registration period not to exceed one calendar year.

Registrants under this section shall file a report within 30 days after the end of any calendar year during which they were registered, disclosing the value, date, and nature of any food, entertainment, or other gift provided to a Board member or employee. Where a gift or series of gifts are made to a Board member or employee exceeding a \$25 market value, the Board member or employee shall also be identified.

The registrations and reports filed pursuant to this policy shall be maintained by the Ethics Review Panel as public records available for public inspection and copying.

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, State Government Article, [§10-611 et seq.] §§15-701[, et seq.; §] to -715, 15-814

RELATED POLICIES: SUPERINTENDENT’S RULE 2373, PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT, SCHEDULE OF FEES

Policy Board of Education of Baltimore County  
Adopted: 10/8/96  
Revised: 8/12/97  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

State Ethics Commission Responses-4/21/2008:  
No suggested revisions