

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: July 14, 2009

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5580 - BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION**

ORIGINATOR: Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services
Glenda Myrick, Coordinator, Safe and Drug-Free Schools

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the new Policy 5580. This is the third reading of this policy.

Attachment I: Policy Analysis 5580
Attachment II: Policy 5580

**Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 5580
Bullying, Harassment, Or Intimidation**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 5580 is new. On February 24, 2009, Maryland State Board of Education adopted a model policy to address bullying, harassment, or intimidation. (<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/0700B064-C2B3-41FC-A6CF-D3DAE4969707/19401/ModelBullyingPolicyDRAFT102108.pdf>). On July 1, 2008, the Maryland General Assembly directed the Maryland State Board of Education, in consultation with local school systems, to develop and adopt a Model Policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation in schools.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

Minimal fiscal impact is anticipated by the adoption of this policy. There will be a need for training materials.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 5510, *Positive Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*

Legal Requirements

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-424.1

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

This is a new policy that each county Board must establish to prohibit bullying, harassment, or intimidation based on the model policy developed by the Maryland State Department of Education. However, other school systems have policies prohibiting harassment, and they include:

1. Anne Arundel County, Policy JCC-RAE, *Harassment and Intimidation/Hazing/Bullying/Bias Behavior*
2. Montgomery County, Policy JFA-RA, *Student's Right and Responsibilities*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

None

Timeline:

First reading – May 19, 2009
Public comment – June 9, 2009
Third reading – July 14, 2009

STUDENTS: BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION

I. PROHIBITION

- A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) PROHIBITS STUDENTS ENGAGING IN INTENTIONAL CONDUCT INVOLVING BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION THAT SUBSTANTIALLY INTERFERES WITH A STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE BOARD PROHIBITS ANY REPRISAL OR RETALIATION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REPORTS AN ACT OF BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION.

- B. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL TAKE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO:
 - 1. ESTABLISH, IMPLEMENT, AND MAINTAIN PROCEDURES BASED ON THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S (MSDE) MODEL POLICY PROHIBITING BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION IN SCHOOLS.

 - 2. CREATE A REPORTING PROCESS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS; ESTABLISH PROPER SYSTEMWIDE REPORTING TO MSDE.

 - 3. PUBLICIZE THIS POLICY.

 - 4. DEVELOP/CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS, AND VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS.

RELATED POLICY: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5510, *SCHOOL DISCIPLINE*

LEGAL REFERENCE: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND*, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-424.1

POLICY BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
ADOPTED: _____