

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** October 20, 2009

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5590 – STUDENTS’ EXPRESSIONS**

**ORIGINATOR:** Rita Fromm, Chief of Staff

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services  
Patsy Holmes, Director, Student Support Services

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education considers the proposed changes to Policy 5590. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 5590

**Policy Analysis for  
Board of Education Policy 5590  
Students' Expressions**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 5590 is a new policy designed to replace language found in Policy 5600 that is not current with COMAR. This new policy includes language found in COMAR.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

No fiscal impact is anticipated by the adoption of this new policy.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Rights and Responsibilities*.

Legal Requirements

*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-308; Code of Maryland Regulations §13A.08.01.03

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Howard County Public Schools, Policy 9020-PR, Students' Rights and Responsibilities  
<http://www.hcpss.org/board/policies/9020.pdf>
2. Montgomery County Public Schools, JFR-RA <http://www/mcps.org/board/policies>
3. Prince George's County Public Schools, Admin. Procedures 5150  
<http://www/pgcps.org/board/policies>

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

The policy was written to align with current law.

Timeline:

First reading – October 20, 2009

Public comment – November 3, 2009

Third reading/vote – December 1, 2009

STUDENTS: STUDENTS' EXPRESSIONS

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

- A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) RECOGNIZES THAT PROVIDING GUIDELINES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESPONSIBLE STUDENT EXPRESSION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM. THE BOARD RECOGNIZES ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS WHICH PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR STUDENT EXPRESSION ARE CONSISTENT WITH LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, SCHOOL SYSTEM POLICIES AND RULES, RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM, AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.
- B. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL ESTABLISH NECESSARY RULE.

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500, *CONDUCT*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5510, *SCHOOL DISCIPLINE*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5520, *DRESS*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5530, *TOBACCO*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5540, *ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, *DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5560, *SUSPENSIONS, ASSIGNMENT TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, OR EXPULSIONS*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5561, *SCHOOL USE OF REPORTABLE OFFENSES*  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5570, *STUDENT TO STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT*

OTHER: *STUDENT HANDBOOK*

POLICY \_\_\_\_\_ BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY  
 ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_