

**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 5600 – STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND RIGHTS**

**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 5600. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 5600

**Policy Analysis for  
Board of Education Policy 5600  
Students' Responsibilities and Rights**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 5600 has not been updated since May 10, 1990. Many areas contained in Policy 5600 are part of other Board of Education policies. The Department of Student Support Services is also recommending changes to the policy to reflect revisions that will comply with COMAR.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

Minimal fiscal impact is anticipated by the revision of this policy contingent on whether an addendum needs to be printed for the 2009-2010 *Student Handbook* or the change is held until the 2010-2011 school year.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*

Board of Education Policy 5230, *Student Records*

Board of Education Policy 5300, *Activities*

Board of Education Policy 5320, *Organizations*

Board of Education Policy 5460, *Searches*

Board of Education Policy 5520, *Dress*

Board of Education Policy 5560, *Suspensions, Assignment to Alternative Programs, or Expulsions*

Board of Education Policy 6307, *Patriotic Exercises*

Board of Education Policy 6701, *Extracurricular Activities*

Legal Requirements

*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-101, 7-101.1, 7-301, 7-303, 7-305, 7-307, 7-308, and 8-404

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Harford County, Policy 02-0026-000, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*
2. Montgomery County, Policy JFA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

None

Timeline:

First reading – October 20, 2009

Public comment – November 3, 2009

Third reading/vote – December 1, 2009

STUDENTS: Students' Responsibilities and Rights

I. POLICY STATEMENT

- A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THE SUPERINTENDENT IS DIRECTED TO DEVELOP NECESSARY PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY.
  
- B. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR CONDUCT AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS.

[Statement of Philosophy

In a century that has seen great progress in the definition of human rights as well as many threats to these rights, public institutions are called upon to clarify their own definitions. Public schools serve many age groups whose rights differ according to their levels of maturity. Many secondary school students have rights which are increasingly judged to be congruent with those of adults. Some limitations of these rights which have been accepted in the past are now being carefully reviewed.

A public school must be an orderly environment in which learning is not jeopardized by disruptions. Within these limitations, students must be given opportunities to bear responsibilities, to accept the reasonable exercise of authority, and to resist both oppression and license. One of the most important student responsibilities is to obey a school rule or policy until such a rule or policy is revoked. No written document can guarantee that authority will always be used reasonably or that rights will never be abused; therefore, the intent of this statement is to provide guidance in areas which have been sources of staff-student conflict and to create an atmosphere of academic freedom in which a student may develop intellectual integrity and economic self-sufficiency. A necessary assumption is that students will accept the responsibilities inherent in their rights and that school staff members will use their authority with respect for the integrity and human dignity of their students.

1. Responsibility for Attendance

Student have the responsibility to comply with the attendance procedures of the school they are attending in addition to those regulations established by the Board of Education and the laws of the State of Maryland.

Lawful Absence Codes

- 01 - Death in the immediate family
- 02 - Illness of the student
- 04 - Court summons
- 07 - Violent weather
- 08 - School related or approved work
- 09 - Observance of religious holiday
- 10 - State emergency
- 13 - Other emergency or set of circumstances which, in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee, constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school
- 18-Suspension
- 19 - Lack of authorized transportation. Shall not include students denied authorized transportation for disciplinary reasons.

Unlawful cause of absence: An absence for any reason other than for those cited as lawful are presumed as unlawful and may constitute truancy.

20 - Truancy

If a student is absent for one of the lawfully reasons indicated above the teacher will allow the student to make up work missed, whenever possible. The responsibility for making up work rests with the student. A student may be denied the right to make up work missed in the case of truancy. All absences must be accounted for in writing on the day of return.

2. The Right of Due Process

A student has a right to an education and any disciplinary measure which deprives him/her of this right must be applied with great discretion. The student has responsibilities which are inseparable from and inherent in his/her rights. One of the most important responsibilities is obedience of a school policy or rule. Suspensions or expulsions are measures to be used in the discipline of students.

Within the Baltimore County school system, the following types of suspensions and expulsions are utilized:

a. Short-term Suspensions

Temporary suspension of a student by the principal for a period not to exceed five (5) school days.

b. Long-term suspension

A suspension for more than five (5) school days imposed by the Superintendent, or a designated representative, at the recommendation of a school principal.

c. Expulsion

Expulsion is the required withdraw from school of a student of any age, by direction of the Superintendent or a designated representative, at the recommendation of the school principal. All cases of expulsion are subject to review for readmission to the day school program, generally, no earlier than the following school year.

Short-term Suspension

The principal of each school in accordance with the rules of the Board of Education shall have the right to suspend temporarily, for cause, for a period of not more than five (5) school days, any student in the school under his/her direction.

Prior to any suspension, a student shall receive oral or written notification of the charge against him/her, the conduct which forms the basis of the charge, and the policy, rule, or regulation violated. If the student denies the charge, he/she shall have the right to an explanation of the evidence supporting the charge and an opportunity to present his/her side of the story. A student whose presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an on-going threat of disrupting the academic process may be immediately removed from school, provided that, as soon as practicable thereafter, the student shall be informed of the nature of the charge against him/her and the evidence supporting it, and be given the opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

Long-term suspension: Expulsion

Suspension for greater than five school days, or expulsion, may be made by the Superintendent of Schools, or a designated representative, at the recommendation of the principal. Pending action by the Superintendent, the principal may temporarily suspend a student in accordance with the procedures previously stated for short-term suspensions.

Following receipt of the suspension notice and other appropriate data, the Superintendent, or a designated representative, shall determine whether a suspension longer than five school days appears to be warranted. This decision must be communicated promptly by letter to the principal. If it is determined that a suspension beyond five (5) school days is not advisable, the principal shall process the suspension as he/she would regularly process a short-term suspension.

If, after a thorough investigation of the problem, the Superintendent, or a designee, believes that a long-term suspension or expulsion is warranted, the Superintendent or a designee shall arrange for a hearing with the student and his/her parent or guardian within five (5) school days of the date of the temporary suspension. The student and the parent or guardian shall be notified in writing of the time and place of the hearing, the nature of the charge, the evidence and witnesses upon which the charge is based, the policy, rule, or regulation violated, and the fact that the hearing may result in the student's suspension for longer than five (5) school days or expulsion. That notice shall also inform the student, and the parent or guardian, that the student may have witnesses and a representative or attorney appear on his/her behalf. At the hearing, the student shall have the right, upon prior request, to be personally confronted with the witnesses testifying against him/her to ask questions of such witnesses, and to have witnesses on his/her behalf.

If, upon consideration of all the evidence presented at the hearing, the Superintendent, or a designee, concludes that a long-term suspension or expulsion is warranted, he/she may impose an expulsion or continue the suspension as long as necessary. The Superintendent, or designee, shall notify the student and parents or legal guardian in writing of his/her findings and decision; this letter shall also advise the parents and student of their right to appeal this decision to the Board of Education by sending such a request in writing to the Superintendent within ten days of the decision of the Superintendent or a designee.

Upon appeal, the Board of Education, or a designated committee, thereof, shall hear the matter promptly but in no event later than fifteen school days from the notice of appeal. Each party shall be afforded the opportunity to present witnesses and be represented by counsel. Unless a public hearing is requested by the student or parent or guardian, the hearing shall be conducted out of the presence of all persons except those whose presence is deemed necessary by the Board. The appeal to the Board of Education shall not operate as a stay of the decision of the Superintendent, and the decision of the Board shall be final.

While under expulsion, expelled students shall not be permitted to participate in any school activity on property owned by Board of Education or any off-site school sponsored activities except those associated with approved counseling and alternative educational programs. Seniors who are under expulsion shall not be permitted to participate in any graduation related activity including the commencement program.

Students on expulsion from day school may attend an alternative program administered by the Office of Adult Education. A student's day school academic program cannot be replicated in the alternative program because availability is restricted by enrollment. An alternative program such as Evening High School has all standard courses. A maximum of vice credits can be attained. Students who wish to take more than two courses must attend a second evening center or Saturday School. Students must provide their own transportation. Seniors may participate in the alternative programs' graduation.

(Ann. Code of Md., Education Article 7-304, Suspension and Expulsion)

### 3. The Right to Privacy of Records

Records are maintained for each student from his/her entrance into school through the twelfth grade. Provision is made for including at least the following:

- a. Personal and family data including certification of name and date of birth
- b. Test data, achievement records, and other evaluative information
- c. Medical records
- d. Anecdotal reports
- e. Psychological reports

- f. Records of conferences
- g. Copies of correspondence with parents and others concerning the student
- h. Other records which may contribute to understanding and educational progress of the student

Access to the file is guaranteed to every student and that student's parents or guardians within forty-five (45) calendar days of the request to see the records. The request must be in writing and must be honored by the school within forty-five (45) calendar days. Psychological reports may be withheld from a student, but not his/her parents, at the discretion of school authorities. Unless there is a court order to the contrary, custodial and non-custodial parents have equal access to school related information, including the student's educational record. In most instances, information in the files will not be disclosed to any person or agency outside the school, except with permission of the parents of a minor student or by the student when he/she has attained the age of eighteen (18).

"Directory information," that is, a student's name, address, date of birth, grade placement, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, diplomas and honors received, does not require prior consent of parents, guardians, or students and is given on request. Students are advised that this information will be withheld only if the school authorities are requested to do so. This request must be submitted in writing to the school principal no later than October 1 of the current year.

Following a review of records with the appropriate school authorities, the parent, guardian, or student over eighteen (18) has a right to challenge in writing the retention or accuracy of any materials in the student's file and to place appropriate comments in the records if they deem it necessary. If the challenge cannot be resolved at the school level, the parent, guardian, or student will follow the grievance procedures outlined in the Board of Education policy (series 5000), Grievance Procedures, Title IX.

#### 4. The Right to Patriotic and Religious Exercises

Patriotic - The Board of Education shall provide for the display of the flag of the United States of America on the site of each school and for the display of the flag in each classroom. It shall be the responsibility of the principal of each school to provide for appropriate patriotic exercises in his/her school in accordance with the Board of Education policy and State Law. Students may not be forced to



participate in patriotic exercises, but they shall be required to refrain from interfering with the participation of others in such exercises.

Religious - No attempt shall be made to prevent voluntary prayer or Bible reading on the part of any student as long as it does not interfere with normal activities required of the student.

The reading or reciting of appropriate inspirational passages which are not considered to be part of a prayer or Holy Scripture and the opportunity for a moment of silent meditation are quite appropriate for the opening exercises.

Principals, teachers, and other agents of the Board of Education may not authorize the reading of the Bible or the saying of prayer as a devotional exercise by any individual or group during school hours.

#### 5. The Right to Student Governance

Students have a right to organize and promote a form of student government that is acceptable to the majority of students in the school. All students have the right to seek and hold office and to vote in student elections. Such rights shall not be abridged for reasons of race, sex, national origin, religion, creed, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, personal records, or political belief. Students are ineligible to seek or hold office if they have more than one "E" for the preceding marking period. This ineligibility will continue until the marking period in which no more than one "E" is earned.

Representative student groups, such as student governments, have a right to meet during the regularly-scheduled school day at reasonable intervals. Furthermore, high school student government presidents and other key representative student government leaders shall be given the opportunity to schedule at least one regular class period per day for the purpose of performing the function of office.

No position taken by a student on an issue while acting in a capacity of the office, be it elected or appointed, may affect in any way grades or academic standing.

Student governance organizations, operation, scope, and amendment procedure shall be specified in a written constitution formulated with effective student participation. Where any of the stated rights of student governance are in conflict with an existing student government constitution, there must be a revision of the local school constitution. A local school constitution may not be in conflict with this Student Bill of Rights.

In each secondary school, a mechanism shall be established for the purpose of receiving recommendations and discussing concerns. The president of the Student Council shall be part of this process.

6. The Right of Assembly

Students have the right to organize and assemble for discussion of issues and to demonstrate peacefully at such times and in such places within the school building or upon the school grounds as the principal of the school may designate after consultation with the students. Students wishing to assemble must share the responsibility of preventing truancy and infringing on the rights of fellow students who do not wish to participate. Students should be informed that it is the responsibility of the principal to protect students against the dangers inherent in a large and uncontrolled assemblage.

7. The Right to Participate in Extracurricular Activities.

Students have the right to participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by their school and shall not be excluded on the basis of race, religion, sex, or national origin. A school organization has the right to establish criteria for membership provided such criteria are relevant to the purpose and activities of that group.

Organizations must be sponsored by a qualified member of the school staff and may not engage in illegal or discriminatory practices. Membership on teams, performing groups, publication staffs, and other school-sponsored clubs shall be available without membership charge to students. Organizations sponsoring social activities such as dances and parties may charge admission. School organizations are not required to provide funds for expenses attendant upon student participation in optional social functions.

8. The Right to Participate in Interscholastic Athletics

School authorities have the right to establish and maintain minimal standards of achievement and conduct for participation in interscholastic athletics in compliance with the Board of Education and State Regulations.

9. The Right to Use of School Facilities

In the management of the use of school facilities, first priority will be given to the requirements of regular school session and other activities which are school related. Otherwise, the facilities shall be made available for any community, civic, educational, social, recreational, or religious purpose, consistent with the Public Schools Law of Maryland. The principal may refuse the use of any school facility if it is considered that the proposed usage will create or aggravate a danger to the peace and welfare of the community or the county. Administrative procedures have been established to implement this policy to ensure that scheduling is orderly, that adequate security and logistical preparation is made, and that all sponsoring organizations understand their privileges and their obligations, and that Board of Education personnel consistently apply this policy and related procedural requirements.

10. The Right to Personal Property

The principal, assistant principal, or the principal's designee of a public school may conduct a reasonable search of a student on the school premises if he/she has a reasonable belief that the student has in his/her possession an item, the possession of which constitutes a criminal offense under the laws of this state. The search must be made in the presence of a third party.

The principal, assistant principal, or the principal's designee, of a public school may conduct a search of the physical plant of the school and every appurtenance thereof including students' lockers. The right of the school official to search lockers must be published within the school (Ann. Code of Md., Education Article, Sec 7-307, Searches of Students and Schools).

11. The Right to Non-Discrimination

Decisions made by school authorities concerning all regular school and affiliated activities shall not be based on race, sex, national origin, religion, creed, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, or political beliefs.

12. The Right to Evaluate Instruction

Administrative policies and curricula differ from school to school to suit the needs of the community and the students. Schools must constantly be reviewing their positions on issues and the course of study to ensure that they are fulfilling their responsibilities to both community and students. With the understanding that any

evaluation by students of the educational process should improve their education, students should be given an opportunity to evaluate all courses, curricula, and instructional materials.

13. The Right Concerning Age of Majority Students

The Board of Education of Baltimore County, any of its agencies, or anyone acting in their behalf shall not abridge the rights of adult citizenship granted to students eighteen (18) years of age or older as specified in the Annotated Code of Maryland. Specifically, a student who has reached the age of majority is given the option of assuming the responsibility of accounting for his/her school absences, in writing, on the day of his/her return. This in no way diminishes the right of the principal, or designee, to communicate with parents regarding any problem or question pertaining to the education of a student.

14. Responsibility for Dress and Grooming

Student dress and grooming are the responsibility of the student and the parents or guardians, unless there is a definite safety or health hazard, a hindrance to the educational processes, or a case of obscenity. Health considerations require the wearing of footwear in public buildings.

15. The Right of Free Speech and Expression

Students, through the various mass media, are exposed to diverse opinions on an infinite number of topics. Students who have facts and opinions on topics should be allowed to express them in print as well as through conversation. However, student editors and writers must observe the same legal responsibilities as those imposed upon conventional newspapers and news media. Thus, no student shall distribute in any school any student publication which:

- a. is obscene as to minors according to current legal definitions;
- b. is libelous, according to current legal definitions;
- c. creates a material and substantial disruption of the normal school activity or appropriate discipline in the operation of the school.

Student publications which are not obscene, libelous, or disruptive may be distributed on school property during school hours in areas designated by the principal of the subject school. Distribution which substantially interferes with the normal flow of traffic within the school corridors and entrance ways, which is coercive of any other person's right to accept or reject any publication, or which causes substantial and material interference with "normal school activities" shall not be permitted.

Any student who desires to distribute a student publication which is not officially recognized as a school publication (as herein defined) shall submit such a student publication to the principal of the subject school for review and approval prior to such distribution. At the time of such submission, the student has the right and is encouraged to meet personally with the principal so that the student and principal may freely exchange views on why the distribution of the student publication is or is not appropriate. The student or his/her representative may support the case for distribution with relevant witnesses and materials.

In exercising the right of prior review, school personnel shall be guided by the definitions contained herein and the following. Students are protected in their exercise of freedom of expression by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It is the responsibility of the school and its staff to insure that the right of students to express themselves freely shall not be infringed while at the same time establishing the kind of environment which is necessary for an orderly program of classroom learning. Distribution shall not be prohibited because the student publication contains the expression of unpopular, critical, controversial, tasteless, or offensive ideas.

In order for a student publication to be considered disruptive, there must exist specific, articulable facts upon which it would be reasonable to forecast that a clear and present likelihood of an immediate, substantial material disruption to normal school activity or school discipline would occur if the material were distributed. Mere undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough; school personnel must be able to affirmatively show substantial facts which would include, for example, student rioting; unlawful seizures of property; destruction of property; threats or acts of violence; widespread shouting or boisterous conduct; or substantial student participation in a school boycott, sit-in, stand in, walk-out, or other related form of activity. On the other hand, material that stimulates heated discussion or debate does not constitute the type of distribution prohibited.

In determining whether a student publication is disruptive, school personnel should consider the context of the distribution as well as the content of the material. In this regard, consideration should be given to past experience with similar material, past experience in dealing with and supervising the student in the subject school, current events influencing student attitudes and behavior, and whether or not there have been any instances of actual or threatened physical disruption prior to or contemporaneously with the submission of the student publication in question.

The principal shall render his/her decision to approve or disapprove the distribution of the student publication and notify the student within one (1) school day of such submission. If approval to distribute is not granted, the principal shall state his/her reasons to the student in writing.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal with respect to the distribution of the student publication, the student may appeal this decision to the Superintendent of Schools who shall render a decision, stating his/her reasons in writing, within three (3) school days of the notice of appeal. An appeal is taken from the principal's decision by notifying the principal, either orally, or in writing, within two (2) school days of the decision, of the student's desire to appeal.

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision of the Superintendent of Schools, the student may appeal this decision to the Board of Education. The Board of Education shall render its decision, in writing, within three (3) school days of notice of the appeal. An appeal is taken from the Superintendent's decision by notifying the Superintendent, either orally or in writing, within two (2) school days of the decision, of the student's desire to appeal.

At every level of the appeals process as outlined above, the student or his/her representative shall have the right to appear and present his/her case supported by relevant witnesses and materials as to why distribution of the student publication is appropriate.

Distribution of the student publication during the period of initial review by the principal, after a negative decision of the principal, or during the period of appeal, shall be sufficient grounds for suspension of the student by the principal in accordance with the procedure set forth in Section 2, "Suspension or Expulsion."

Upon failure of any of the foregoing school authorities in the review and appeals process to act within the time periods specified, the student who submitted the student publication for approval may distribute same.

Definitions pertaining to this section on Student Expression are:

- a. “School day” means any day during regular or summer session on which regularly-scheduled classroom instruction takes place, and excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and official school holidays.
- b. “Publication” means any book, magazine, pamphlet, newspaper, yearbook, picture, photograph, drawing, or any other written or printed matter or visual representation, however produced.
- c. “School publication” means any publication, as defined herein, which is composed, compiled, published, or distributed under the official supervision of a faculty sponsor.
- d. “Student publication” means any publication, as defined herein, which is composed, compiled, published, or distributed by students.
- e. “Distribution” means circulation or dissemination of the student publication to students at the time and place of normal school activity or immediately prior or subsequent thereto by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies of the publication, or displaying the material in areas of the school which are generally frequented by students. In dealing with material which is “obscene” or “libelous,” the term distribution refers to a substantial circulation or dissemination of one or more copies whereas in dealing with all other types of material, the term distribution refers to a substantial circulation or dissemination of the student publication so as to make the subject publication generally available to students of the subject school.
- f. “Normal School Activity” means organized educational activity of students under the direct supervision of a member of the school staff which includes classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies, and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays, and scheduled in-school lunch periods.
- g. “Minor” means any person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

- h. “Obscene as to minors” means
- (1) whether the average persons, applying contemporary community standards would find that the publication, taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest of minors;
  - (2) whether the publication depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way to minors, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable Maryland Law. Maryland Law defines “sexual conduct” to mean human masturbation, sexual intercourse, or touching of or contact with the genitals, pubic areas or buttocks of the human male or female, or the breasts of the female, whether alone or between members of the same or opposite sex, or between humans and animals. (Ann. Code of Md. Article 27, Sec. 416A)
  - (3) whether the work taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
- i. “Libel” is the false and unprivileged publication by writing, printing, picture, effigy, or other fixed representation to the eye which exposes a person to public hatred, contempt, ridicule, or obloquy, or which causes him/her to be shunned or avoided, or which has a tendency to cause occupational injury.

When the publication concerns “public officials,” i.e., those who hold government office; or “public figures,” i.e., those who, by reason of the notoriety of their achievements or the vigor and success with which they seek the public’s attention, are properly classified as public figures, in order to be libelous, the defamatory falsehood must be made with actual malice; that is, with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.

When the publication concerns private individuals, in order to be libelous, the defamatory falsehood must be made negligently; that is, the publisher must fail to exercise the degree of care that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in order to avoid making a defamatory falsehood.



## 16. The Right to Grievance

Every effort should be made to settle disagreements at the local school level. The informal discussion of problems and the interchange of views between students and the professional staff of a school are encouraged in order to resolve as many disputes as possible informally.

Procedures for channeling student complaints at the local school level shall be developed by the principal in cooperation with the Student Government. Students shall be informed of the local procedures. If a student complaint involving the alleged violation of the Bill of Rights or a Board of Education policy or rule cannot be resolved at the school level between a student and the principal within a five (5) school day period, the student may appeal, in writing to the appropriate Area Assistant Superintendent who shall render a decision, in writing, within five (5) school days of such an appeal. Appeal from a decision of an Area Assistant Superintendent is to the Superintendent of Schools, or a designee, who shall render a decision within ten (10) school days of such appeal. The appeal is thence to the Board of Education at the time of its next regularly-scheduled meeting. Further appeal may be made to the State Board of Education if taken in writing within thirty (30) days following the decision of the local board. (See sections entitled "Suspension and Expulsion," "Student Records," and "Student Expression" for special appeal procedures to be used for student complaints in these areas.)

## 17. Amendments to Policy

Except in cases of emergency, proposed changes in this policy must be submitted to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools by April 1, preceding the school year in which such changes will take effect.]

LEGAL REFERENCES: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND*, EDUCATION  
ARTICLE 7-304  
COMAR 13A.08.01.10

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1300, *USE OF FACILITIES*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5120, *ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5150, *RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5320, *ORGANIZATIONS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5460, *SEARCHES*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5520, *DRESS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, *DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5560, *SUSPENSIONS, ASSIGNMENT TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, OR EXPULSIONS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5580, *BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5590, *STUDENT EXPRESSION*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6306, *PRAYER AND BIBLE READING*

Policy  
Adopted: 8/12/76  
Revised: 9/21/78  
Revised: 6/14/84  
Revised: 6/13/85  
Revised: 5/28/87  
Revised: 6/16/88  
Revised: 3/22/90  
Revised: 5/10/90  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County