

RULE 5600

STUDENTS: STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

I. DEFINITIONS:

A. STUDENTS' RIGHTS

1. EXPECTATIONS STUDENTS HAVE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) REGARDING FREEDOMS THAT MAY BE EXERCISED IN SCHOOLS.

B. STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

1. EXPECTATIONS BCPS HAS OF STUDENTS REGARDING RIGHTS AND ACCEPTING CONSEQUENCES FOR ACTION TAKEN IN SCHOOLS.

II. ATTENDANCE

A. RIGHTS

1. ALL INDIVIDUAL FIVE YEAR OLDS OR OLDER AND UNDER 21, WHO ARE DOMICILED WITH A PARENT/GUARDIAN IN BALTIMORE COUNTY, SHALL ATTEND A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN BALTIMORE COUNTY FREE OF CHARGE.
2. FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO REQUIRE SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES, A FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION WILL BE PROVIDED FROM BIRTH THROUGH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IN WHICH THE STUDENTS TURNS 21 YEARS OF AGE.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE BCPS ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL OR ATTENDING A SCHOOL ACTIVITY EACH DAY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.
2. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLYING WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) POLICIES, SUPERINTENDENT RULES, AND SCHOOL REGULATIONS AND

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STANDARDS THAT ADDRESS ATTENDANCE AND
ENROLLMENT.

III. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION REGARDING DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND THEIR PROPER APPLICATION.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMPLYING WITH SCHOOL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES AND EXHIBITING BEHAVIOR REQUIRED BY THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER APPLICABLE POLICES AND RULES.

IV. DUE PROCESS

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS WHEN DISCIPLINE IS IMPOSED. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES MAY APPLY TO STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLANS (IEPS) AND SECTION 504 PLANS.
2. DUE PROCESS INCLUDES:
 - a. NOTICE TO THE STUDENT AND PARENT(S) OF THE ALLEGATION(S).
 - b. AN EXPLANATION OF THE EVIDENCE.
 - c. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE STUDENT TO RESPOND.
 - d. TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE PARENT(S) OF THE DETENTION, EXCLUSION, EXPULSION, OR SUSPENSION.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

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1. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXERCISING THEIR DUE PROCESS RIGHTS CONCERNING PROCEEDINGS AND/OR APPEALS IN A MANNER THAT IS TIMELY AND ADHERES TO THE PROSCRIBED PROCESS.

V. GRIEVANCE

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO A TIMELY RESPONSE TO A PROPER GRIEVANCE.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO AN APPEAL IN A MANNER THAT IS TIMELY AND ADHERES TO THE PROSCRIBED PROCESS.

VI. PRIVACY OF RECORDS

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS AND PARENTS HAVE THE RIGHT UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW TO INSPECT AND REVIEW THE STUDENT'S EDUCATION RECORDS, TO MAINTAIN THOSE RECORDS CONFIDENTIALLY, AND TO HAVE ANY SCHOOL RECORD INACCURACIES CORRECTED.
2. STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTAINED THE AGE OF MAJORITY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST INSPECTION AND REVIEW THEIR EDUCATION RECORDS, TO ACCESS THOSE RECORDS CONFIDENTIALLY TO HAVE ANY SCHOOL RECORD INACCURACIES CORRECTED, AND TO PROVIDE ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING ACCURATE SCHOOL RECORDS AND WORKING COOPERATIVELY FOR THE REASONABLE COLLECTION OF DATA.

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2. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING APPROPRIATE USE OF AVAILABLE SCHOOL COUNSELING AND RELATED SERVICES.

VII. STUDENT EXPRESSION

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH, RELIGION, AND THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE PEACEABLY BUT SPEECH AND BEHAVIOR THAT ARE DISRUPTIVE CAN BE PROHIBITED.

a. SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

- (1.) RIGHT TO PREPARE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FOR SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS IS SUBJECT TO THE REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS OF SCHOOL AUTHORITIES THAT ARE BASED ON LEGITIMATE EDUCATIONAL CONCERNS.

b. DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

- (1.) THE RIGHT TO DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE IS SUBJECT TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HAVING THE RIGHT TO RESTRICT THE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF SUCH ACTIVITIES TO MAINTAIN THE ORDERLY OPERATION OF SCHOOLS.

c. ASSEMBLY

- (1.) THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE IS SUBJECT TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES SETTING REASONABLE LIMITS REGARDING THE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER IN WHICH STUDENTS MAY ASSEMBLE.

d. SYMBOLIC EXPRESSION

- (1.) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SYMBOLIC FORMS OF EXPRESSION TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SYMBOLIC EXPRESSION DOES NOT SUBSTANTIALLY DISRUPT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

e. DRESS AND APPEARANCE

- (1.) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SELECT THEIR DRESS APPAREL IN ACCORDANCE WITH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PRACTICE. BCPS MAY ONLY REGULATE THE DRESS AND/OR THE APPEARANCE OF STUDENTS TO THE EXTENT THAT THE DRESS AND/OR APPEARANCE INTERFERES WITH THE EDUCATION PROCESS. DRESS APPAREL MUST NOT CAUSE DISRUPTION, BE A SAFETY OR HEALTH HAZARD, OR A HINDRANCE TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. PUBLIC SCHOOLS DO NOT REGULATE THE DRESS AND /OR THE APPEARANCE OF STUDENTS, UNLESS THE DRESS AND/OR APPEARANCE INTERFERES WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.

f. PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

- (1.) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PATRIOTIC EXERCISES, BUT SHALL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT OF OTHER STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EXERCISES.

g. RELIGION

- (1.) STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOLUNTARY PRAYER OR BIBLE READING TO THE EXTENT THAT IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REQUIRED OF THE STUDENTS.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTROLLING THEIR CONDUCT WHILE EXERCISING THEIR RIGHT TO EXPRESSION. STUDENT EXPRESSION CAN NEITHER INFRINGE UPON THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS NOR DISRUPT CLASSROOM OR SCHOOL PROCEDURES.
2. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF OTHERS TO HAVE OPINIONS WHICH MAY DIFFER FROM THEIR OWN.

VIII. STUDENT ACTIVITIES, STUDENT GOVERNANCE, STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PROCEDURES INCLUDING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL.
2. SUBJECT TO THE REQUIRED PROCEDURES AND APPROVAL BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS, SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS MAY CONDUCT ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. EACH ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES MUST BE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS.
2. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR USING SCHOOL FACILITIES SAFELY, RESPONSIBLY, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHOOL SYSTEM PROCEDURES.

IX. PERSONAL PROPERTY SEARCHES

A. RIGHTS

1. BCPS' STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY AT SCHOOLS, SUBJECT TO REASONABLE SEARCHES OF STUDENTS AND THEIR POSSESSIONS ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS SHALL NOT POSSESS ANY ITEMS PROHIBITED UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND OR BCPS' POLICIES AND RULES.
2. STUDENTS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COOPERATE WITH SCHOOL OFFICIALS WHO CONDUCT REASONABLE SEARCHES

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AND SEIZURES UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND
REGULATIONS AND BCPS' POLICIES AND RULES.

X. NON-DISCRIMINATION

A. RIGHTS

1. STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION, BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPECTING THE RIGHT OF OTHERS.

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*

ADOPTED: _____

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS