

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: July 13, 2010

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500 – STUDENTS: CONDUCT**

ORIGINATOR: Michele Prumo, Acting Chief of Staff

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 5500. This is the first reading.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 5500

**Policy Analysis for
Board of Education Policy 5500
Students: Conduct**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Baltimore County Public Schools' Board of Education Policy 5500 is being recommended for revision to align it with other policies within the 5500 series and with State law and regulation. These revisions include Policies 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5561, 5570, 5580, and 5590.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

No fiscal impact is anticipated by the revision of this policy.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 5510, *Positive Behavior*
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*
Board of Education Policy 5580, *Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation*
Board of Education Policy 5590, *Students' Expressions*
Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Rights and Responsibilities*

Legal Requirements

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-305, *Suspension and Expulsion*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-306, *Corporal Punishment; State Code of Discipline*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §26-101, *Disturbing Activities at School or College; Molesting or Threatening Students*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §26-102, *Trespass on the Grounds of a Public Institution of Elementary, Secondary, or High Education*
COMAR 13A.08.01.11, *Disciplinary Action*
COMAR 13A.08.01.15, *Reporting Delinquent Acts*
COMAR 13A.08.01.17, *School Use of Reportable Offenses*

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 9200, *Discipline; Also Student Code of Conduct*
2. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 9200 – PR, *Discipline; Also Student Code of Conduct (Implementation Procedures)*
3. Montgomery County Board of Education, Policy JGA, *Student Discipline*
4. Montgomery County Board of Education Policy, JGA-EA, *Disciplinary Action (State Law)*
5. Montgomery County Board of Education Policy, JGA-EB, *Suspension and Expulsion (State Law)*
6. Montgomery County Board of Education Policy, JGA-RA, *Classroom Management and Student Behavior Interventions*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

The policy was revised to align all other policies in the 5500 series on students conduct in school.

Timelines:

First reading: July 13, 2010

Public Comment: August 10, 2010

Third reading: September 7, 2010

STUDENTS: Conduct

[Students in our schools are expected to act in such fashion that their behavior shall reflect favorably on the individual student and on the school, show consideration for fellow students, and create a harmonious school atmosphere. To accomplish this, all students must recognize their individual responsibilities and obligations and discharge them in accordance with the school regulations.]

I. PHILOSOPHY

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) EXPECTS ALL BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' (BCPS) STUDENTS TO PUT FORTH THEIR BEST EFFORTS DURING THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, STUDENTS MUST RECOGNIZE THEIR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THEY MUST BEHAVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' (BCPS) CODE OF CONDUCT.

II. CODE OF CONDUCT - ALL BCPS STUDENTS WILL:

- A. ATTEND SCHOOL DAILY UNLESS THERE IS A LAWFUL PURPOSE FOR BEING ABSENT.
- B. ENGAGE IN LEARNING ACTIVITIES.
- C. BRING TO SCHOOL ONLY THOSE ITEMS AND MATERIALS WHICH ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THEIR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.
- D. DEMONSTRATE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND LANGUAGE AND RESPECT THE PERSONAL, CIVIL, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS OF OTHERS.
- E. ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND EDUCATION WHILE ABIDING BY ESTABLISHED BOARD POLICIES, SUPERINTENDENT'S RULES, AND A SCHOOL'S PROCEDURES.

[All students shall conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. This refers to their actions toward each other, to their language, to their dress, and to their manners.]

III. STANDARDS

[Attention is called to behavior on school buses, at lockers, in the lavatories, in the gymnasium, in the corridors, in the cafeteria, in the area outside the school, in the library, in the school offices, and of course, in the classroom.]

- A. The [rules] CODES of conduct for school campuses shall apply to all off-site school-sponsored activities.
- B. [It is important that cooperative efforts among] All school personnel [be continued] ARE EXPECTED to [help our school become more] effectiveLY [in] deal[ing] with students whose behaviorS inhibit[s] their own EDUCATION [self-development] or unduly hinder[s] others from learning.
- C. The Board recognizes [its] THE SCHOOL SYSTEM'S responsibility to give all reasonable support and assistance to teachers with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the classrooms. [Whenever it appears that a particular pupil requires the attention of supporting personnel within and beyond the school system, the staff will take reasonable steps to assist the teacher with respect to such student.]
- D. In each instance in which [an] employeeS act[s] to help a student conduct THEMSELVES APPROPRIATELY [himself properly], emphasis shall be placed upon HELPING STUDENTS LEARN SELF DISCIPLINE AND RULES. [the growth of the student in ability to discipline himself.]

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent [of Schools] shall develop administrative procedures for the proper conduct of all persons on school property, on school buses, and at off-site school-sponsored activities.

Legal ReferenceS: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-305, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION*
ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-306, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT; STATE CODE OF DISCIPLINE
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §26-101, Disturbing Activities at School or College; Molesting or Threatening Students

*Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §26-102, Trespass
on the Grounds of a Public Institution of Elementary, Secondary, or
High Education*

COMAR 13A.08.01.11, *DISCIPLINARY ACTION*

COMAR 13A.08.01.15, *REPORTING DELINQUENT ACTS*

COMAR 13A.08.01.17, *SCHOOL USE OF REPORTABLE
OFFENSES*

Policy

Adopted: 11/21/68

Revised: 08/21/81

REVISED: _____

Board of Education of Baltimore County