DATE: September 7, 2010

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500 – STUDENTS: CONDUCT

ORIGINATOR: Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 5500. This is the third reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 5500
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
POLICY 5500

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