

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: December 7, 2010

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5250 – GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

ORIGINATOR: Michele Prumo, Chief of Staff

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services
Lynne Muller, Coordinator, Office of School Counseling

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 5250. This is the third reading.

Attachment I: Policy Analysis
Attachment II: Policy 5250

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5250
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

In accordance with Rule 8130, Policy 5250 is scheduled for review in school year 2010-2011. The current policy addresses the Board's focus on rigor, relevance, and meeting the needs of diverse students. Minor revisions are recommended to align the policy with current State Board regulations and to conform to the Policy Review Committee's editing conventions.

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

1. Board of Education Policy 5200, *Promotion and Retention*

Legal Requirements

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-205, (*Promotion and Graduation of Students*)
2. *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-206.1, *High school diploma for certain individuals enlisted during World War II or Korean Conflict*.
3. COMAR 13A.03.02, *Graduation Requirements for Public High Schools in Maryland*

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, Policy 608.03, *Graduation Requirements*
2. Board of Education of Howard County, Policy 8030, *Graduation Requirements*
3. Board of Education of Montgomery County, Policy ISB-RA, *High School Graduation Requirements*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

None

Timeline

First reading – October 19, 2010

Public comment – November 9, 2010

Third reading/vote – December 7, 2010

STUDENTS: [Graduation Requirements] PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Graduation REQUIREMENTS

I. PHILOSOPHY

- A. The Board of Education OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) is committed to ensuring that ALL STUDENTS IN THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE BOARD IS DEDICATED TO ENSURING THAT ITS graduates [Baltimore County Public Schools] ARE PREPARED TO ENTER POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR BOTH, AND [will] have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to reach their potential as responsible, productive citizens. The Board recognizes that fulfilling this commitment requires high academic standards; rigorous, relevant curricula; effective, engaging instruction; and flexibility in programming and support to meet the diverse needs, aptitudes, and interests of all students. The mission of a high school in [Baltimore County Public Schools] BCPS is to build upon the students' prior educational experience and to help students grow academically, ethically, and socially. Within the high school program, students will have access to a wide variety of course offerings and learning experiences that will instill in them the confidence and competence to succeed and provide them with pathways to reach their maximum potential as life-long learners and productive citizens in a global [marketplace] ECONOMY AND A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

II. PURPOSE

- A. TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BYLAWS OF THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.
- B. THE BOARD, AT ITS DISCRETION, MAY ESTABLISH GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS BEYOND THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD WHEN IT BELIEVES IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF STUDENTS.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DEVELOP RULES TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-205, PROMOTION AND GRADUATION OF STUDENTS*
ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-206.1, HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS ENLISTED DURING WORLD WAR II OR KOREAN CONFLICT.
COMAR 13A.03.02, GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN MARYLAND

RELATED POLICIES: *BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5200, PROMOTION AND RETENTION*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5210, FACTORS INVOLVED IN STUDENT EVALUATION

Policy
Adopted: 6/12/75
Revised: 11/9/78
Revised: 7/12/84
Revised: 7/9/87
Revised: 10/14/97
Revised: 04/25/06
REVISED: _____

Board of Education of Baltimore County