

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** April 5, 2011

**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5100, ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE**

**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 5100, Enrollment and Attendance. This is the third reading.

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Attachment I: Policy Analysis 5100  
Attachment II: Policy 5100

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5100  
COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 8130, Policy 5100 is scheduled for review in school year 2010-2011. The policy has been revised to clarify the Board's philosophy concerning student enrollment and attendance and the importance that attendance has on its goal of ensuring all students will graduate from high school. The policy has also been edited 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 5000, *Students*
2. Board of Education Policy 5110, *Admissions*
3. Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*
4. Board of Education Policy 5140, *School Attendance Areas*
5. Board of Education Policy 5150, *Residents and Nonresidents*

**Legal Requirements**

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-101, Admission of students; location; kindergarten programs*
2. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-301, Compulsory attendance*
3. COMAR 13A.08.01.01, *Attendance*
4. COMAR 13A.08.01.02, *Age for School Attendance*
5. COMAR 13A.08.01.02-1, *Definitions*
6. COMAR 13A.08.01.02-2, *Exemptions to Kindergarten Attendance Requirement*
7. COMAR 13A.08.01.05, *Student Attendance Policy*

**Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems**

1. Harford County Board of Education, Policy 02-003-000, *Admissions*
2. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy JB, *Compulsory Attendance*
3. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 9010, *Attendance*

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

No other alternatives were considered.

**Timeline**

First reading – February 22, 2011

Public comment – March 8, 2011

Third reading/vote – April 5, 2011

STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

I. PHILOSOPHY

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) RECOGNIZES THAT STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AND ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN A SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITY EACH DAY THAT SCHOOL IS IN SESSION. THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS PARAMOUNT IN ENSURING THAT ALL STUDENTS WILL GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND BECOME RESPONSIBLE, LIFE-LONG LEARNERS, AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

II. ATTENDANCE

A. EACH CHILD WHO IS 5 YEARS OLD OR OLDER AND UNDER 16, WHO IS DOMICILED IN BALTIMORE COUNTY WITH THE CHILD'S PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR RELATIVE PROVIDING INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE [Students] shall be required to attend [the schools of] Baltimore County PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) REGULARLY DURING THE ENTIRE SCHOOL YEAR, UNLESS THE CHILD IS OTHERWISE RECEIVING REGULAR, THOROUGH INSTRUCTION DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR IN THE STUDIES USUALLY TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO CHILDREN OF THE SAME AGE, OR IS EXEMPTED FROM ATTENDANCE AS PROVIDED BY STATE LAW AND REGULATION [in accordance with state law].

1. EACH CHILD WHO IS 5 YEARS OLD OR OLDER ON SEPTEMBER 1 SHALL BE ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN, UNLESS A KINDERGARTEN LEVEL OF MATURITY WAIVER HAS BEEN APPROVED.

2. [B.] EACH CHILD WHO IS 5 YEARS OLD OR OLDER AND UNDER 16, WHO IS NOT IN AN APPROVED HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM OR IN A PRIVATE SCHOOL, [Every child between five and sixteen years of age] must be enrolled in BCPS [schools] according to placement determined by admission standards and/or examination.

- B. STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 21 [Older youths and adults] are encouraged to COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION, IF ELIGIBLE, OR TO take advantage of opportunities available through ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS [evening high school and adult education classes in order to qualify for a high school diploma, to improve their cultural or academic backgrounds, or to improve their vocational skills].
- C. EACH PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR RELATIVE PROVIDING INFORMAL KINSHIP CARE [Parents] OF A CHILD WHO IS 5 YEARS OLD OR OLDER OR UNDER 16 shall be required to ENSURE THAT THE CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL REGULARLY [enroll all eligible children in kindergarten].

Legal References: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-101, ADMISSION OF STUDENTS; LOCATION; KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS*  
*ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-301, COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE*  
COMAR 13A.08.01.01, *ATTENDANCE*  
COMAR 13A.08.01.02, *AGE FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE*  
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-1, *DEFINITIONS*  
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-2, *EXEMPTIONS TO KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT*  
COMAR 13A.08.01.05, *STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY*

[#4-109 Schools of Adults  
#7-301 Compulsory Attendance  
State Board of Education Bylaw  
13A.08.01.01 Attendance  
13A.08.01.01-1 Definitions  
13A.08.01.01-2 Age for School Attendance]

POLICY 5100

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5000, *STUDENTS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5110, *ADMISSIONS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5120, *ATTENDANCE*  
*AND EXCUSES*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5140, *SCHOOL*  
*ATTENDANCE AREAS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5150, *RESIDENTS AND*  
*NONRESIDENTS*

Policy  
Adopted: 11/21/68  
Revised: 06/27/95  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County