

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: July 12, 2011

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5520 – STUDENT DRESS CODE**

ORIGINATOR: Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services
Ms. Patsy Holmes, Director

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 5520 – *Student Dress Code*.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 5520

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5520
DRESS
(TO BE RENAMED AS, “STUDENT DRESS CODE”)**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 5520 has not been reviewed since its adoption in 1968. Policy 5520 sets the standards for student dress and appearance. Staff is recommending that Policy 5520 be revised to: (1) change the name of the policy from “Dress” to “Student Dress Code;” (2) add a philosophy statement that reflects the Board’s commitment to a safe and orderly school environment and its belief that student dress and appearance should contribute to a safe learning environment and not interfere with the educational process; (3) include disciplinary action for violations of the student dress code; and (4) conform with 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 5500, *Conduct*
2. Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*
3. Board of Education Policy 5551, *Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Behavior*
4. Board of Education Policy 5580, *Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation*
5. Board of Education Policy 5590, *Students’ Expressions*
6. Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students’ Responsibilities and Rights*

Legal Requirements

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-306, Corporal Punishment; State code of discipline*
2. COMAR 13.A.08.01.11, *Disciplinary Action*

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy JCD, *Student Attire and Personal Appearance*
2. Harford County Board of Education, Policy 02-0036-000, *Dress Code*
3. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 9210, *Dress Code*
4. Prince George’s County Board of Education, Policy 5152, *Dress Code*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

No other alternatives were considered.

Timeline

First Reading – July 12, 2011

Public Comment – August 9, 2011

Third Reading/Vote – September 6, 2011

STUDENTS: CONDUCT [Elementary and Secondary]

[Conduct:] STUDENT Dress CODE

I. PHILOSOPHY

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING A SAFE AND SECURE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CONDUCIVE TO STUDENT LEARNING. WHILE STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS, THE BOARD BELIEVES THAT DRESS AND APPEARANCE SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH ANY ASPECT OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY BY OUTLINING STANDARDS FOR STUDENT DRESS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY AND DURING SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES, AND BY INSTITUTING DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF THESE STANDARDS.

[Cleanliness and proper dress are important in setting the pattern of school and social conduct. There is considerable evidence to indicate a close relationship between student dress and student behavior. The standards of dress for school shall conform to the standards generally accepted by the community. The administration is encouraged to invite staff, students, and parents to participate in setting up acceptable minimum standards for student dress.

Any students who come to school without proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness or neatness of dress may be excluded or required to prepare themselves for the schoolroom before entering.]

POLICY 5520

LEGAL REFERENCES: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-306, CORPORAL PUNISHMENT; STATE CODE OF DISCIPLINE*
COMAR 13.A.08.01.11, *DISCIPLINARY ACTION*

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500, *CONDUCT*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, *DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5551, *GANG ACTIVITY, AND SIMILAR DESTRUCTIVE OR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5580, *BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5590, *STUDENTS' EXPRESSIONS*
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5600, *STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS*

Policy
Adopted: 11/21/68
REVISED: _____

Board of Education of Baltimore County