

STUDENTS: Activities

Social Events

I. PURPOSE

- A. THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BCPS) RECOGNIZES THAT SCHOOL-SPONSORED SOCIAL EVENTS PROVIDE A STRUCTURED FORUM FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THESE FUNCTIONS ARE ORGANIZED IN A CONSISTENT MANNER, THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHALL BE FOLLOWED FOR ALL BCPS SCHOOL-SPONSORED SOCIAL EVENTS THAT OCCUR ON AND OFF OF SCHOOL PROPERTY.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. *SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITY* – MEANS ANY ACTIVITY PLANNED BY SCHOOL STAFF AND SUPERVISED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL.
- B. *SOCIAL EVENT* - MEANS ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED SOCIAL FUNCTION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CLASS OR SCHOOL PARTIES, DANCES, PROMS, AND RECEPTIONS.
- C. *PRINCIPAL* – MEANS THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL SPONSORING THE EVENT OR HIS OR HER DESIGNATED ADMINISTRATOR

III. GUIDELINES

- A. ALL SOCIAL EVENTS SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL PRIOR TO BEING SCHEDULED AND ANNOUNCED.
[All activities sponsored by a school shall be under the direct supervision and control of the school. The principal, therefore, must assume the responsibility of assuring that adequate measures are taken for the safety and control of students at these activities.]
- B. ALL SOCIAL EVENTS SHALL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL. ANY EXCEPTIONS SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL.
- C. HIGH SCHOOL DANCES, INCLUDING PROMS, SHALL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL, UNLESS THE SCHOOL FACILITY IS NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO BUILDING SYSTEM FAILURE OR OTHER EMERGENCY. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, AFTER A CAREFUL EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED

TO SPACE AVAILABILITY AT THE HOME SCHOOL, COST, SECURITY, STUDENT SAFETY, ARE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT A PROM AT AN OFF-CAMPUS FACILITY.

1. GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY FOR OFF-CAMPUS PROMS ARE TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE PRINCIPAL AND SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, SUCH CONTROLS AS:
 - a. CHAPERONES – SCHOOL STAFF AND PARENTS;
 - b. SECURITY – SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY;
 - c. TRAVEL ARRANGMENTS – PARENT RESPONSIBILITY;
 - d. NOTICE OF ESSENTIAL DETAILS, INCLUDING GUESTS OF STUDENTS – SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY;
 - e. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT – SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITY.
 2. ALL CONTRACTS, LEASES, AND AGREEMENTS FOR SERVICES AND NON-BCPS VENUES MUST BE APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) POLICY AND SCHOOL SYSTEM RULES AND PROCEDURES. THE PRINCIPAL SHALL BE THE SIGNATORY ON ALL SUCH CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.
 3. ALL CONTRACTS, LEASES, AND AGREEMENTS FOR SERVICES SHALL BE REVIEWED BY THE OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT TO ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE IS INCLUDED TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.
 4. HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW AND APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO ANY CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT.
- D. THE COLLECTION OF ALL FUNDS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE *ACCOUNTING MANUAL FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS*, AS WELL AS BOARD POLICY AND SCHOOL SYSTEM RULES AND PROCEDURES.

[Facilities in nearly all schools make it possible to accommodate virtually all social activities within the school. Scheduling activities within the school provides the optimum situation for planning measures for effective supervision to ensure safety and student control. Therefore:]

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. [1.] The use of class time for instructional purposes [should] SHALL be

given primary consideration and SOCIAL EVENTS, GENERALLY, [student activities] shall NOT [ordinarily not] be held during school hours. [Principal approved small-scale classroom parties on special occasions are acceptable exceptions.]

- B. [2. Student] Social EVENTS [activities] should be scheduled so THEY DO [as] not NEGATIVELY IMPACT [to work a deleterious effect on] student achievement and the instructional program.
- C. NO [A] social event SHALL BE APPROVED IF THE SOCIAL EVENT IS PLANNED [should not occur on] FOR the evening before ANY STATE-MANDATED TEST OR the administration of the SAT/PSAT, ACT, ADVANCED PLACEMENT, or ANY other BCPS APPROVED [major testing situations] ASSESSMENT.
 - 1. PRINCIPALS SHOULD REVIEW THE MARYLAND *STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDENT TESTING CALENDAR* AND CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND ASSESSMENT BEFORE SCHEDULING ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED SOCIAL EVENT.
 - [3. All high school student social activities shall be held on school property, with one exception: i.e., one end-of-the-year social activity seniors may be held in a private setting off school property with the approval of the principal.]
- D. SOCIAL EVENTS SHALL NOT BE SCHEDULED ON SCHOOL SYSTEM OR OTHER FEDERAL HOLIDAYS. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS RULE, HOLIDAYS BEGIN AT SUNSET ON THE DAY PRECEDING THE HOLIDAY.

V. BEHAVIOR

- A. STUDENTS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AT ALL SOCIAL EVENTS.
- B. STUDENT BEHAVIOR
 - 1. STUDENTS MUST FOLLOW THE CODE OF CONDUCT AS OUTLINED IN THE BCPS *STUDENT HANDBOOK* AND ARE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR ANY BEHAVIORAL OFFENSES COMMITTED DURING A SOCIAL EVENT.
 - 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE NOTIFIED AND PARENTS WILL BE CALLED IN ALL CASES INVOLVING THE POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL OR

DRUGS, WEAPON VIOLATION, ASSAULT, OR ANY SERIOUS INFRACTION COMMITTED AT A SOCIAL EVENT.

C. GUEST BEHAVIOR

1. PRINCIPALS ARE AUTHORIZED TO REFUSE ADMISSION TO, OR EJECT FROM, ANY SOCIAL EVENT ANY INVITED GUEST WHO APPEARS TO BE INTOXICATED OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS, WHO IS CONDUCTING HIMSELF OR HERSELF IN AN IMPROPER OR DISORDERLY MANNER, OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE PRINCIPAL.
2. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS MAY BE NOTIFIED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRINCIPAL SHOULD SUCH INTERVENTION AS A RESULT OF GUEST BEHAVIOR BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3125, *SCHOOL ACTIVITY FUNDS*
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3160, *SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES*
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3215, *CONTRACTS*
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500, *CONDUCT*
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5530, *STUDENT USE AND POSSESSION OF TOBACCO*
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5540, *ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS*
 BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, *DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR*

Rule
 Adopted: 11/21/68
 REVISED: _____

Superintendent of Schools