

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** February 21, 2012

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6400 – MAGNET PROGRAMS**

**ORIGINATOR:** Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Roger Plunkett, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction  
Kathleen McMahon, Executive Director, Special Programs, PreK-12

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 6400 – *Magnet Programs*.  
This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 6400

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6400  
MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS  
RENAMED AS, "MAGNET PROGRAMS"**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

Board of Education Policy 6400 has not been reviewed since its adoption in 1999. Policy 6400 establishes magnet programs as an alternative for parents and students. Staff is recommending that the policy be revised to: (1) rename the policy to "Magnet Programs" to better reflect the intent of the policy; (2) include a philosophy statement; (3) include an implementation section that directs the establishment of procedures for the application, admission, and enrollment of students in magnet programs; (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 5110, *Admission*
2. Board of Education Policy 5140, *School Attendance Areas*
3. Board of Education Policy 5150, *Enrollment and Attendance*

**Legal Requirements**

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §4-109, Establishment of Public Schools*

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

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy IP, *Magnet, Signature, and Consortia Programs*

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

No other alternatives were considered.

**Timeline**

First reading – February 21, 2012

Public comment – March 6, 2012

Third reading/vote – April 17, 2012

INSTRUCTION: SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Magnet [Schools and] Programs

I. PHILOSOPHY

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (BOARD) is committed to providing [quality educational opportunities for all students, regardless of background, by providing each student an educational environment that enhances that student’s educational success. The Board of Education is also committed to encouraging all parents to play active roles in their children’s education and to increasing the] educational choices [available to] FOR parents and students in [the] BALTIMORE COUNTY AND [public schools. The Board] supports magnet [schools and] programs as one tool for achieving THIS GOAL [these goals].
- B. [First, the] THE Board [of Education] believes that magnet [schools and] programs should [promote educational excellence and] offer UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES; IMPLEMENT [to students with different interests, talents, and aptitudes; distinct choices that may enhance their educational success. The Board of Education also believes that magnet schools and programs should be used to develop] innovative instructional practices; and promote [systemic reform. Lastly, magnet schools and programs are a tool for the promotion of] diversity within schools. As defined by the Board, [of Education] diversity includes racial, ethnic, economic, gender, and special needs populations.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION, ADMISSION, AND ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS IN MAGNET PROGRAMS.

Legal Reference: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §4-109, *ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5110, *ADMISSION*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5140, *SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5150, *RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS*

Policy  
Adopted: 04/20/99  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County