Baltimore County Public Schools

Date: December 18, 2012

To: Board of Education

From: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

Subject: Report on the Proposed Revisions to Board of Education Policy 5510, Positive Behavior

Originator: Kevin A. Hobbs, Deputy Superintendent

Resource Person(s): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, School Safety and Security
                   Patsy J. Holmes, Director, Student Support Services

Recommendation

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 5510, Positive Behavior. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I: Policy Analysis
Attachment II: Policy 5510
POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5510  
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed
In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 8130, Policy 5510 is scheduled for review in school year 2012-2013. Policy 5510 outlines the Board’s expectations for appropriate and positive student behavior and sets forth guidelines to promote behaviors supportive of academic success. Staff is recommending that the policy be revised to: (1) include a policy statement that reflects the Board’s beliefs and expectations concerning positive behavior in its schools; (2) include the Board’s expectation that students behave appropriately in school, as well as while participating in school-sponsored activities; (3) include an implementation section; 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 5000, Students
2. Board of Education Policy 5500, Conduct
3. Board of Education Policy 5120, Attendance and Excuses
4. Board of Education Policy 5520, Student Dress Code
5. Board of Education Policy 5540, Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Dangerous Substances, Intoxicants, Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs
6. Board of Education Policy 5550, Disruptive Behavior
7. Board of Education Policy 5551, Gang Activity and Similar Destructive or Illegal Behavior
8. Board of Education Policy 5560, Suspension, Assignment to Alternative Programs, or Expulsion
9. Board of Education Policy 5561, School Use of Reportable Offenses
10. Board of Education Policy 5580, Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation
11. Board of Education Policy 5600, Students’ Rights and Responsibilities
12. Board of Education Policy, 5590, Students’ Expressions
13. Board of Education Policy 6202 Telecommunication Access to Electronic Information, services, and Networks
14. Board of Education Policy 6701, Extracurricular Activities

Legal Requirements
1. Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-305, Suspension and expulsion.
2. COMAR 13A.08.01.11, Disciplinary Action

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems
1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy JCC, Student Conduct

Draft of Proposed Policy
Attached
**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**
No other alternatives were considered by staff.

**Timeline**
First reading – December 18, 2012
Public comment – January 8, 2013
Third reading/vote – February 5, 2013
STUDENTS: Conduct

Positive Behavior

I. POLICY STATEMENT

A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE AND CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING. THE BOARD BELIEVES that positive behavior in the school is ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

B. THE BOARD FURTHER BELIEVES THAT CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR SHOULD BE COMMUNICATED, TAUGHT, AND THAT CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND EQUITABLY ADMINISTERED. [extremely important to the maintenance of safe and orderly learning environments for all students. Without positive behavior in the school students will not reach expected achievement standards.] ALL SCHOOLS WILL PUBLISH EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT BEHAVIOR BY DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTATING [In maintaining positive behavior, each school is expected to develop and implement] a schoolwide positive behavior plan. This plan should set forth expectations FOR [of] students, staff, and parents/guardians. Character Education and safety should be integral components of the positive behavior plan.

II. GUIDELINES [The guidelines for positive behavior are:]

A. [1.] The Positive Behavior Planning Guide is to be used to develop and implement a schoolwide positive behavior plan DESIGNED TO CHANGE BEHAVIORS, REDUCE SUSPENSIONS, AND KEEP STUDENTS IN SCHOOL. THE PLAN IS TO BE A COMPONENT OF THE SCHOOL PROGRESS PLAN.

B. [2.] The school’s positive behavior plan shall include a code of conduct, routines, and procedures that are to be implemented and assessed for effectiveness on an ongoing basis.
C. [3.] Ongoing professional development and support shall be provided for all staff.

D. [4.] STUDENTS SHALL BE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY IN SCHOOL AND WHILE PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES. The principal, assistant principals, teachers, and staff shall teach students the school’s code of conduct, routines, procedures, and discipline PROCESS. [and students shall be expected to behave appropriately in school.]

E. [5.] Character Education shall be a component of the school’s positive behavior plan.

F. [6.] Character Education shall be included in educational programs as an ongoing teaching process to help develop in students a strong values system and promote positive behavior and ethical decision making.

[7. All staff is expected to model good character.]

III. IMPLEMENTATION

A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY.

LEGAL REFERENCES: ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-305, SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION. COMAR 13A.08.01.11, DISCIPLINARY ACTION

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5000, STUDENTS BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5500, CONDUCT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5120, ATTENDANCE AND EXCUSES BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5520, STUDENT DRESS CODE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5540, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES, INTOXICANTS, PRESCRIPTION AND NONPRESCRIPTION DRUGS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5550, DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5551, GANG ACTIVITY AND SIMILAR DESTRUCTIVE OR ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5560, SUSPENSION, ASSIGNMENT TO ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS, OR EXPULSION
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5561, SCHOOL USE OF REPORTABLE OFFENSES
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5580, BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5600, STUDENTS’ RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY, 5590, STUDENTS’ EXPRESSIONS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6202, TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND NETWORKS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6701, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Policy
Adopted: 04/13/72
Revised: 09/05/07
REVISED: _______