DATE: May 21, 2013

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3420, ROUTES AND SERVICES

ORIGINATOR: Michael Sines, Chief Operations Officer

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Jim Mitcherling, Director, Office of Transportation

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education reviews the proposed changes to Policy 3420. This is the first reading.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 3420
POLICY ANALYSIS FOR
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3420
 ROUTES AND SERVICES

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed
In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 8130, Policy 3420 is scheduled for review in school year 2012-2013. Policy 3420 addresses the Board’s responsibility to establish bus routes and provide transportation services for students. Staff is recommending Policy 3420 be revised to: (1) include a policy statement; (2) in Paragraph II.B., delete the word “children,” and substitute the word “students;” (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 3410, Responsibilities and Duties

Legal Requirements
1. Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §§7-801 to -807, Transportation
2. COMAR 13A.06.07, Student Transportation

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems
1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy EA, Student Transportation Services
2. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 5200, Pupil Transportation
3. Montgomery County Board of Education, Policy EEA, Student Transportation

Draft of Proposed Policy
Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff
No other options were considered.

Timeline
First reading – May 21, 2013
Public comment – June 11, 2013
Third reading/vote – July 9, 2013
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES: Transportation Services

Routes and Services

I. POLICY STATEMENT

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) RECOGNIZES ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH SCHOOL BUS ROUTES AND PROVIDE STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES.

II. STANDARDS

A. [1.] Regular Routes and Services

THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR the establishment, extension, and change of school bus routes IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD POLICIES, SUPERINTENDENT’S RULES, AND SCHOOL SYSTEM PROCEDURES. [shall be the responsibility of the Office of Transportation. Such establishment, extension, and change shall be based on established policies of the Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) and the rules and regulations developed by the Superintendent.]

B. [2.] Transportation for Private School Students

1. A CHILD [Children] who attends A private ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY school[s] in Baltimore County may be eligible for school bus transportation on established school bus routes IF:

   a. THE CHILD RESIDES NEAR A PUBLIC HIGHWAY OF THE COUNTY ON WHICH THE BOARD CURRENTLY OPERATES A PUBLIC SCHOOL BUS FOR TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO AND FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND

   b. TRANSPORTATION CAN BE provided [by the Board] from a point on THE public HIGHWAY [roadways] nearest or most accessible to THE CHILD’S HOME [their respective homes,] to a point on A public HIGHWAY [roadways] nearest or most accessible to THE CHILD’S PRIVATE SCHOOL, [their respective schools,] without changing the ESTABLISHED BUS route [of the bus] USED TO TRANSPORT STUDENTS TO AND FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS[in question].
2. PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS SHALL ADHERE TO THE SAME BEHAVIOR AND SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS THOSE REQUIRED OF [These students shall be expected to conform to the same rules and regulations as] public school students.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY.

Legal References:  
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §§7-801 TO -807, TRANSPORTATION
COMAR 13A.06.07[.03], STUDENT TRANSPORTATION
Baltimore County Code, 2003, EDUCATION Article §28-1-102, TRANSPORTATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS - AUTHORIZED

RELATED POLICY: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 3410, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES