

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Date:** December 4, 2007

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5310 - STUDENTS: ACTIVITIES, AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT**

**ORIGINATOR:** Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer

**RESOURCE PERSON(S)** Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services  
Lynne Muller, Coordinator, Office of School Counseling

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education considers the proposed changes to Policy 5310. This is the first reading of this policy.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis 5310  
Attachment II – Policy 5310

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY  
Policy Analysis for Proposed Revision of Policy: **5310**  
**STUDENTS: Activities**  
**Awards for Achievement**

Statement of Issues Addressed By the Revised Policy

The Department of Student Support Services is in the process of reviewing policies in the 5000 series. The department is recommending that a revision be made to policy 5310 Students: Activities, Awards for Achievement, by deleting question number one, “Can the proposed award be considered free from motives of personal or corporate gain and publicity?” Several scholarships and awards for students are sponsored by businesses and those businesses do gain publicity (Comcast, Coca-Cola®), but the gain does not outweigh the benefit to students.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

No fiscal impact.

Relationship to Other Board Policies

Policy and Rule 1320, Contests

Policy 8362, Gifts to the Board of Education, Schools, and Offices within the School System

Policy 8363, Conflict of Interest

Legal Requirement

None

Similar Policies Adopted by Other School Systems

Howard County Public Schools - Policy 10030, Participation in Contests

Montgomery County Pubic Schools - JIA-RA, Honors and Recognition

Draft of Proposed Policy

A copy of Policy 5310 is attached.

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

Keep the current statement (number 1) and deny students access to scholarships sponsored by companies/businesses. Delete the current statement (number 1) acknowledging that most awards are publicized.

First reader: December 4, 2007

Public comment (second reader): December 18, 2007

Board Vote (third reader): January 8, 2008

STUDENT: Activities

Awards for Achievement

The Board of Education OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) encourages the professional staff to maintain a set of criteria and procedures for presenting letters or other suitable awards to students for scholarship and distinguished service in any school activity. In all cases, the relationship between the award and the relevant goal or goals of the schools should be clear.

The professional staff is authorized to review and approve, or reject[,] proposed trophies, prizes, scholarships, or other awards from non-school donors. Acceptance shall require affirmative answers to the following questions:

- [1. Can the proposed award be considered free from motives of personal or corporate gain and publicity?]
- [2] 1. Are the criteria for making the award under the control of the professional staff, or acceptable to the staff?
- [3.] 2. Are the purposes, either implied or explicit, of the proposed award consistent with our schools' goals?

[Also see policy and rules, "Contests," Series 1000, Community Relations.]

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1320, CONTESTS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8362, GIFTS TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOLS, AND OFFICES WITHIN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8363, CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Policy  
Adopted: 11/21/68  
REVISED:

Board of Education of Baltimore County