



DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools

Blueprint for Progress: Realizing the Vision

The Baltimore County Public Schools is dedicated to providing a quality, comprehensive educational program designed to address the needs of a diverse student population. Building on current successes, the system's *Blueprint for Progress* outlines the vision, mission, belief statements, performance goals, performance indicators, and key strategies.

The *Blueprint for Progress*, a framework for improving student achievement, provides clear direction for everyone involved in education in Baltimore County. The *Blueprint for Progress* is built on a foundation of clear standards, quality instruction, and individual accountability. Implementing this blueprint is essential if we are to meet state and national standards and accomplish the goals of increased student achievement and continuous school improvement.

Vision

Baltimore County Public Schools' graduates will have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to reach their potential as responsible, productive citizens in a global economy and multi-cultural society.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a quality education that develops the content knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable all students to reach their maximum potential as responsible, life-long learners and productive citizens.

Goals

- To improve achievement for all students
- To maintain a safe and orderly learning environment in every school
- To use resources effectively and efficiently

Division of Curriculum and Instruction

This division is responsible for providing services that impact and support teaching and learning throughout the school system. Each department is charged with the design, development, and alignment of systemwide curricular programs and initiatives that address the needs of a diverse student population.

Goals

- Develop and implement curricular and instructional programs that provide for active and engaging learning for all students in all content areas.
- Improve teaching and learning to enable all students to achieve high standards of performance.
- Align and coordinate the systemwide implementation of key initiatives to improve achievement and performance for all students, including professional development related to the High School Assessments, Advanced Placement courses, and reading and mathematics.
- Develop and implement systemwide staff development based on the individual needs of all employees, which focuses on leadership development, enhancement, risk-taking, and innovations.
- Provide services to administrators, teachers, and families to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed in school.

Department of Student Support Services

This department is one of the departments within the Division of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mission

The Department of Student Support Services coordinates prevention and intervention programs and services to support schools, students, and parents by addressing the cognitive, behavioral, social, emotional, health, safety, and alternative education needs of all students to maximize student achievement.

Goals

- Integrate and coordinate offices' services to students, families, and schools as indicated in the *Blueprint for Progress*.
- Integrate, coordinate, and implement the student support model of services to students, families, and schools through the following related offices and programs: Alternative Education and Dropout Prevention Programs, School Counseling, Pupil Personnel Services, Psychological Services, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Health Services, and School Social Work.
- Build interagency partnerships with the departments of Social Services, Juvenile Services, Police, Fire, and Health, the Emergency Preparedness Office, and the Local Management Board to provide leadership in the maintenance of safe schools, prevent abuse and neglect, determine residency, develop 504 plans, and address homelessness.
- Promote fair and consistent implementation of the Baltimore County Public Schools' disciplinary code.

- Assist in the coordination of the school system's preparedness for emergency situations with the review of the *Critical Response and School Emergency Safety Management Guide*, and provide training in school safety for Critical Response Teams and all school administrators.

Office of Alternative Education, Dropout Prevention, and Summer School Programs

This office provides programs and services in the comprehensive and alternative schools.

Goals

- Implement an early intervention/literacy alternative education program that will result in a seamless preK-12 support system.
- Continue to improve the quality of summer classes offered to students to assure accelerated achievement for all students.
- Expand the use of technology in alternative programs.
- Continue to support alternative and drop-out prevention programs for at-risk students.
- Continue to provide services to families to break the cycle of illiteracy.
- Increase services to ELL families.



Office of School Counseling

This office works collaboratively to provide coordinated resources to enable all students to maximize their educational potential, including graduating from high school, and to provide services to schools to ensure that all students are educated in school environments that are safe and conducive to positive learning experiences.

Goals

- Deliver a comprehensive program of guidance and counseling services to all students based upon the goal of school success.
- Help students develop career awareness and decision-making competencies.
- Provide counseling support to individual students and groups of students.
- Help students develop intrapersonal and interpersonal competencies.
- Provide consultation services to school staff, parents/guardians, and appropriate community partners.
- Coordinate schoolwide initiatives.



Office of Health Services

This office is committed to delivering a comprehensive, quality health services program to all students and staff by developing and implementing services to reduce or eliminate health barriers that might interfere with student learning and achievement.

Goals

- Ensure compliance with all employee health/wellness regulations and promote employee health.
- Decrease the number of students who stay home from school due to chronic illnesses.
- Work with the Department of Physical Facilities to provide safe and well-maintained facilities.
- Provide health services and consultation to students, parents/guardians, teachers, and school teams to ensure student safety and maximum access to education, regardless of students' health conditions.
- Reduce barriers to primary health care by collaborating with the Baltimore County Department of Health and providing Wellness Centers in targeted schools.
- Provide health training and resources to schools to enhance emergency preparedness, e.g., CPR, First Aid.

Office of Psychological Services

This office provides psychological consultation, assessment, and intervention services to students, parents/guardians, and school staff in all schools to support student achievement and safe and orderly learning environments.

Goals

- Collaborate in Student Support Teams to use data-based decision making for schoolwide behavior planning and academic and behavioral interventions for at risk students.
- Collaborate in Student Support Teams and IEP Teams to assess and plan for students with intensive needs in academic, cognitive, behavioral, social, and emotional functioning.
- Provide consultation and assessment for students with special needs involving cultural and linguistic diversity, sensory deficits, medical issues, communication, social skills, and emotional conditions.
- Provide mental health services to students with educational needs including threat assessment, social skills training, therapeutic counseling support, traumatic loss support, and consultation with school staff, family members, and community agencies.
- Provide staff development and trainings to school staff and parents/guardians on learning and behavior issues related to school improvement and students' needs.

Office of Pupil Personnel Services

This office provides direct intervention and case management services to students. Support services are also provided to families of referred students who are experiencing academic, behavioral,

emotional, physical, and/or social difficulties. Pupil personnel workers, school social workers, and residency officers provide differentiated support to families and schools. They collaborate with other student support staff, school staff, and community agencies to coordinate services to families so that students can achieve the maximum benefit from their educational experiences. Residency officers work with school staff to solve residency issues. School social workers provide advocacy on behalf of students to promote positive school experiences and to foster students' healthy psychosocial development.

Goals

- Serve as liaisons to coordinate services to students, families, and school personnel. Provide and/or assist with effective, fair, and consistent implementation of attendance, child abuse and neglect, homeless, residency, and student behavior policies and procedures.
- Develop services and programs for students to increase learning readiness, self-responsibility, and discipline.
- Develop partnerships to expand support services.
- Support the homeless education programs.
- Implement attendance programs.
- Provide intensive therapeutic counseling to students and their families.
- Provide training and support to families.
- Administer risk assessments.
- Facilitate referrals to community agencies.

504 Plan



Programs and Services Provided to Students, their Families, and School Staffs by the Department of Student Support Services

Office of Alternative Education, Dropout Prevention, and Summer School Programs

- Alternative Programs
- Even Start Program
- Family Literacy/Early Intervention Program
- Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-school Youngsters (HIPPY)
- Lifeworks Program
- General Education Diploma (GED) Classes and Home Schooling Program
- Home and Hospital Education
- Maryland's Tomorrow Program
- Summer School Programs

Office of School Counseling

- Partnerships with College Board for PSAT, SAT, AP, and College Ed.
- Comprehensive, developmental school counseling programs
- Traumatic Loss Teams
- Peer Helpers/Peer Mediation Programs
- Diploma and Transcript Services
- College Readiness Partnership with Community Colleges of Baltimore County (CCBC)
- College and Career Planning Programs



Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and the Office of Safe Schools

- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)
- Student Assistance Program (SAP)
- Juvenile Offenders in Need of Supervision (JOINS)
- Health Education Curriculum
- Ninth Grade Social Studies Curriculum
- Baltimore County Police Department's Schools Unit
- After-prom Parties Committee
- Parenting Programs
- Positive Behavior/Character Education and Critical Response and School Emergency Safety Management Plans
- Health and Wellness Fairs

Office of Health Services

- Wellness Centers

Office of Psychological Services

- Instructional Support Teams (IST)
- Student Support Teams (SST)/504 Training
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
- Functional Behavioral Assessment/Behavior Intervention Plan Facilitation
- IEP Education Disability Eligibility and Planning
- Autism Waiver Eligibility Program

Office of Pupil Personnel Services

- Project ATTEND
- Parent/Guardian Training Programs

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

This office collaborates with the Office of Health Education to provide tobacco, alcohol, and other drug prevention education in grades preK-12. Through student assistance teams, school personnel identify students whose behaviors may indicate a personal or familial problem with alcohol and/or other drug use and referrals for assistance are made.

Prevention programs are encouraged through individual school incentive grants promoting healthy lifestyles.

This office also promotes increased focus on positive behavior management throughout the school system through the implementation of character education, positive behavior, and safety/emergency plans. Emphasis is placed upon cooperative and collaborative working relationships with schools, all resource personnel, and interagency partners involved in the maintenance of safe and orderly learning environments in all schools.

Goals

- Coordinate prevention plans and programs to ensure the maintenance of safe and drug-free schools.
- Continue supporting and establishing student assistance teams to offer early identification, intervention, and referral of students at risk of self-destructive behaviors related to substance abuse.
- Support efforts to reduce suspensions and expulsions through the implementation of peer mediation and student mentoring programs.
- Implement parental involvement programs, interagency collaborations, and community linkages in an effort to reduce incidences of violence and substance abuse.

- Support school staffs as positive behavior plans are implemented.

Office of Safe Schools

The Safe Schools Facilitator is the liaison for the Baltimore County Police Department with the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, the Department of Student Support Services, and the entire school system. The assigned police captain works closely with the school system's staff in coordinating all programs and services provided to the school system by the police department. This interagency partnership is designed to help ensure the maintenance of safe and orderly learning environments in all schools and offices.

The Safe Schools Facilitator also serves as the liaison with the fire department in helping the school system develop and implement Critical Incidents Response Emergency and Safety Management plans so that all interagency partners will know exactly how they are to respond in the event of a crisis in any schools, offices, or communities.





DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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Director

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Office of School Counseling

Coordinator

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Office of Psychological Services

Coordinator

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Office of Pupil Personnel Services

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