

BCSC PLATFORM

Plank I - Education

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Diversity in school curricula to allow for specified areas of study.
- B. A weighted grading system including the recognition of honors and gifted and talented courses on report cards, transcripts and course syllabi.
- C. The enforcement of academic eligibility requirements for participation in co-curricular activities.
- D. Programs that promote computer literacy and technological education in addition to and as a part of the development of fundamental elementary goals.
- E. Early intervention programs that enable all children to start school ready to learn.
- F. The encouragement of students towards voluntary involvement within the community.
- G. Secondary magnet programs.
- H. The implementation of leadership training classes in all secondary schools in Baltimore County.
- I. A weight of no more than 12% for a final exam towards a final grade.
- J. Students not being penalized for excused absences from school for approved activities.
- K. Foreign language classes beginning in the 6th grade.
- L. The necessary passing of all HSA tests in order to graduate high school.
- M. Raising the legal dropout age from 16 to 18 years of age.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Year round schooling.

- B. The service learning requirement as incorporated in the curriculum.
- C. State legislators mandating curriculum.
- D. Magnet school programs at the elementary level.

Plank II - Youth Representation

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Appointment of student members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the Maryland State Board of Education.
- B. Designation of the student members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the Maryland State Board of Education as full voting members.
- C. Appointment of student representatives on private sector boards and commissions which deal with youth related issues at the local, county and state levels.
- D. Creation and/or continuation of student government programs in all elementary and secondary schools in Baltimore County under the guidance of a qualified faculty advisor.
- E. The appointment and fair compensation of advisors to support the empowerment and representation of students.

Plank III - Funding

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Full local, state and federal funding for programs mandated for implementation in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- B. Consistency of resources across the county.
- C. Proportionate funding to meet the needs for all areas of study.
- D. Full funding for the Thornton school aid plan.
- E. Taking 25% of pre-existing lottery funds and distributing them to the schools in the district where the tickets were sold.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Any voucher program that would use public money to fund private school education.
- B. Any proposal for the creation and implementation of a program that does not outline how it will be funded.

Plank IV - School Safety and Supportive Programs

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Protective measures against school violence.
- B. The establishment and/or support of peer mediation programs.
- C. Measures to eliminate firearms from the school environment.
- D. Measures to control the flow of firearms to unlicensed persons.
- E. Measures to increase safe gun ownership such as a mandated gun safety class prior to receiving a gun license.
- F. Government subsidizing of child safety locks so that they are more accessible to all who wish to exercise their second amendment right.
- G. SRO officers in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- H. Having police officers in school parking lots at the opening and closing of every school day.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Any measure that would hinder the ability of law-abiding citizens to exercise their second amendment rights.

Plank V - School Personnel

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. The availability of trained health professionals in all Baltimore County Schools.
- B. Full time counselors in secondary schools at all grade levels.
- C. Full staffing for the purpose of assisting students with special needs.
- D. The hiring and placement of guidance counselors and school nurses based upon school populations, not a countywide standard.
- E. The hiring of one additional qualified staff member per school to focus completely on substitute teaching.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Any class greater than 30 students.
- B. A state mandated teacher dress code.

Plank VI - Building Maintenance

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Increased funding for general upkeep of schools.
- B. Adequate custodial staffing for all of Baltimore County Schools.
- C. Healthy school environment for all students.
- D. Increased parking for faculty, staff and students in schools where needed.
- E. Implementation of methods to prevent school vandalism.

Plank VII - Health and Safety

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Student organizations that use peer leadership to discourage emotional and physical abuse.

- B. Support services for the prevention and treatment of verbal and emotional abuse in Baltimore County.
- C. Peer counseling programs in schools.
- D. The establishment of "wellness networks" in the community.
- E. Publicized resources for students in need of confidential support.
- F. The formation of a State Advisory Council on Obesity in Youth.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Body Mass Index tests administered by schools.

Plank VIII - Substance Abuse

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Compliance with existing laws which prohibit alcohol consumption by persons under the age of 21 years and which prohibit cigarette smoking by persons under the age of 18.
- B. Continued education in all Baltimore County Schools on the problems and dangers of the different types of controlled and illegal substances focusing on the biological and social hazards and effects of their use.
- C. Continued support of "smoke free schools" and the establishment of smoking cessation clinics to assist students and staff in all Baltimore County Schools.
- D. Full funding of state and local programs to eliminate substance abuse among students.
- E. Substance free activities.
- F. The availability of wellness centers as a source of information and treatment for students.
- G. Student organizations and services for the prevention of substance abuse and all other destructive decisions in every secondary school in Baltimore County.

- H. A mandatory short term suspension for students caught smoking, drinking, abusing a controlled substance or carrying any of the previously mentioned items while under the jurisdiction of the school system.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. In-school punishment for out-of-school behavior.

Plank IX - Drunk Driving

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Student organizations that use peer leadership to discourage drinking and driving.
- B. Distribution of information about the problems and dangers of drinking and driving among teens in every Baltimore County secondary school.
- C. Enforcement of all drinking and driving laws.
- D. Continued education about the current drunk driving laws.
- E. Extending the amount of time an underage driver's license would be suspended for drunk driving.

Plank X - Teenage Pregnancy, Family Planning and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Distribution of factual information, the development of communication, and decision-making skills.
- B. Full and effective implementation and support of required family life and human development courses.
- C. Curriculum for sexual education that is abstinence based.
- D. Curriculum which teaches principles of safe sex and contraception.
- E. Availability of condoms in Baltimore County secondary schools with appropriate support.

- F. Employment of teachers who are qualified to teach family life and human development courses.
- G. Continuation of AIDS and STD prevention education in high school and an increased amount of AIDS and STD prevention education at the middle school level.
- H. Health courses providing adequate information about family planning, human development and general wellness as a Maryland state graduation requirement.

Plank XI - Environment

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Continuation of environmentally sound schools.
- B. Continuation and upgrade of comprehensive recycling programs in all Baltimore County Schools.
- C. Energy conservation programs at the facility and instructed levels.
- D. The inclusion of environmental programs in Baltimore County as options for summer programs, school clubs, internships, community center programs and student activities.
- E. Limiting the use of harmful chemicals on school properties where students learn, play or convene for any reason.
- F. The minimization of waste products within the schools and the maximization of reusing and recycling of used materials.
- G. The use of provided bus transportation.
- H. The encouragement of carpooling for driving students as well as faculty and staff.

Plank XII - Civic Responsibility

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. The establishment of programs that encourage youth to participate in civic oriented activities.
- B. The distribution of voter registration forms in 12th grade social studies classes.

Revised *April 26, 2006*