



STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance

Compulsory Attendance

I. Philosophy

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes that students are required to be enrolled in school and attending or participating in a school-related activity each day that school is in session. The Board believes that regular attendance is paramount in ensuring that all students will graduate from high school and become responsible, life-long learners, and productive citizens.

II. Attendance

- A. Each child who is 5 years old or older and under 16, who is domiciled in Baltimore County with the child's parent, guardian, or relative providing informal kinship care shall be required to attend Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) regularly during the entire school year, unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age, or is exempted from attendance as provided by state law and regulation.
 - 1. Each child who is 5 years old or older on September 1 shall be enrolled in kindergarten, unless a kindergarten level of maturity waiver has been approved.
 - 2. Each child who is 5 years old or older and under 16, who is not in an approved home instruction program or in a private school, must be enrolled in BCPS according to placement determined by admission standards and/or examination.
- B. Students between the ages of 16 and 21 are encouraged to complete the requirements for graduation, if eligible, or to take advantage of opportunities available through alternative programs.
- C. Each parent, guardian, or relative providing informal kinship care of a child who is 5 years old or older or under 16 shall be required to ensure that the child attends school regularly.

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-101, *Admission of Students; Location; Kindergarten Programs*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-301, *Compulsory Attendance*
COMAR 13A.08.01.01, *Attendance*
COMAR 13A.08.01.02, *Age for School Attendance*
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-1, *Definitions*
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-2, *Exemptions to Kindergarten Attendance Requirement*
COMAR 13A.08.01.05, *Student Attendance Policy*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5000, *Students*
Board of Education Policy 5110, *Admissions*
Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*
Board of Education Policy 5140, *School Attendance Areas*
Board of Education Policy 5150, *Residents and Nonresidents*

Policy
Adopted: 11/21/68
Revised: 06/27/95
Revised: 04/05/11

Board of Education of Baltimore County