I. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) is committed to providing each student access to a quality education. In accordance with state law, all qualified school-aged children, who have an established bona fide domicile in Baltimore County, are to be admitted free of charge to Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS).

II. Standards

A. The age of admission to public schools in Maryland is established by state regulation. Children enrolling in kindergarten shall be Five (5) years old or older on September 1, of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

B. Transfer students entering kindergarten shall turn five (5) years old on or before September 1, unless the student is currently enrolled in a public school and transfers from another state during the school year.

C. Any student seeking admission from a Maryland private, parochial, other public school system or a nonpublic program certified by the Maryland State Department of Education shall be placed in the grade level to which they are certified by the sending school, provided the child is age-eligible.

D. Any student transferring from another state or country seeking admission shall be placed in the grade level commensurate with the student’s validated grade level from an accredited school in the sending state or country. For students in Grades 9-12, validation of grade level will include a review of credits earned.

E. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the receiving school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure that the grade placement is in the child’s best educational interest.

F. Enrollment of students shall be made in accordance with State law and regulation and Board Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 5150, Resident and Nonresident Student Eligibility.
III. Implementation

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal References: 42 U.S.C. § 11431, et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (as amended by ESSA)
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 7-101, Eligibility for Public Schools; Kindergarten Programs
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 7-301, School Attendance Requirements
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-1303, Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
COMAR 13A.08.01.02 Age for School Attendance
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-2 Exemptions to Kindergarten Attendance Requirement

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5100, Compulsory Attendance
Board of Education Policy 5150, Resident and Nonresident Student Eligibility
Board of Education Policy 5200, Promotion and Retention

Policy Board of Education of Baltimore County
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