



STUDENTS: Conduct
Disruptive Behavior

I. Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) is committed to ensuring and promoting a positive, respectful and caring environment where all students will learn. The Board understands that providing a safe and secure learning environment requires that clear expectations for appropriate behavior be communicated, supports and interventions be provided and consequences for inappropriate behavior be communicated and administered.
- B. The Board establishes this policy as its student behavior code.

II. Standards

- A. The Superintendent shall establish guidelines that ensure all schools foster, teach and acknowledge positive behavior and utilize interventions and supports to motivate students to change inappropriate behaviors while on school property, while participating in school-sponsored activities and events and while being transported to and from school or school-sponsored activities and events.
- B. A student's behavior will be deemed disruptive when it disturbs or otherwise interferes with the orderly conduct of the activity and normal function of a school or interferes with another student's rights to attend school or to utilize the services and facilities of the school.
- C. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
- D. Disciplinary infractions that constitute violations of criminal statutes will be reported to appropriate law enforcement officials.
- E. The Superintendent shall develop guidelines that provide supports and interventions for students who exhibit inappropriate behavior. These guidelines shall provide administrators with discretion to impose various disciplinary consequences for violations.

- F. The behavior offenses for which student discipline may be imposed are listed in Paragraph IV below. The list is not all inclusive and is not intended to cover all behaviors or actions; there may be additional offenses for which a student may be suspended, assigned to an alternative educational program or expelled.

III. Definitions

- A. *Cyberbullying* – The use of electronic communication to harm or harass others in a deliberate, repeated and hostile manner.
- B. *Educational Purposes* – Those tasks performed by students which are directly related to BCPS’ curricular assignments, projects or research.
- C. *Electronic Communication* – A communication transmitted or received by means of any electronic device, including, but not limited to, radio, television, cable, telephone, computer systems, networks, copiers, scanners, cell phones/smart devices and fax machines.
- D. *Electronic Device* – Any device (personal or BCPS-issued), including, but not limited to, desktop computers, laptops, Smartphones, iPads, tablets or e-Readers.
- E. *Regular Instructional Hours* – The school day, beginning at the opening bell and concluding at the dismissal bell.
- F. *School Property* – Any Board-owned, controlled or leased property or vehicle regardless of whether students are present.
- G. *School-Sponsored Activity* – An activity that is sponsored, approved, conducted, planned and/or supervised by school personnel, regardless of whether the activity takes place on or off school property or occurs during regular instructional hours.

IV. Offenses

- A. ***Category I***
 - 1. Examples of offenses that may result in suspension:

ARSON/FIRE/EXPLOSIVES

- a. Possession and/or igniting of matches or lighters (when not a part of the instructional program)

ATTACKS/THREATS/FIGHTING

- b. Fighting

ATTENDANCE (In-School Suspension Only)

- c. Leaving school grounds without permission
- d. Unexcused lateness (class/classes)
- e. Unexcused lateness (school day)
- f. Unexcused absence or truancy (class/classes)
- g. Unexcused absence or truancy (school day)

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

- h. Non-prescription violation (possession of non-prescription medications)
- i. Use and/or possession of tobacco, cigarette rolling paper, electronic cigarettes or other tobacco products

DISRESPECT/INSUBORDINATION

- j. Failure to follow a direction such as, but not limited to, failure to report to office when directed by school staff to do so
- k. Harassment (includes nuisance electronic communications to students or staff members; continued comments or passing of unofficial notes to another individual that he/she does not wish to hear or receive)
- l. Refusing to cooperate with school rules and/or regulations
- m. Refusing to cooperate with school transportation regulations
- n. Refusing to do assigned work
- o. Refusing to serve detention
- p. Using obscene or abusive language or gestures

PERSONAL HEALTH

- q. When a student knowingly uses his or her state of health to threaten the health of others

OTHER

- r. Academic dishonesty (cheating on tests, copying term papers or forging signature of teacher and/or parent/guardian)
- s. Gambling

- t. Unauthorized sale or distribution in school of items, goods or services not related in any way to the school operation (e.g., sale of football pools)
- u. Use of electronic devices for non-educational purposes during regular instructional hours. The ban on use of electronic devices for non-educational purposes also applies to buses while being transported to and from school and while participating in school-sponsored activities or events

B. *Category II*

- 1. Examples of offenses for which the student may be suspended, assigned to an alternative program and which may result in expulsion:

ARSON/FIRE EXPLOSIVES

- a. Fire alarm/false fire report
- b. Possession of an incendiary or explosive material or device, including live ammunition (firecracker or greater)

ATTACKS/THREATS/FIGHTING

- c. Extortion or taking money or possessions from another student(s) by threat or causing fear and intimidation
- d. Physical attack(s) on a student
- e. Threat(s) on individual(s)

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

- f. Distribution, attempt to distribute or possession with the intent to distribute a non-controlled substance that is represented as a controlled dangerous substance or any synthetic drugs and substances
- g. Non-prescription violation (misuse of non-prescription medications) including failure to have medications administered by school nurse or delegated personnel
- h. Possession, use or distribution of drug paraphernalia or synthetic drugs and substances
- i. Prescription violation (possession of prescribed medication)
- j. Purchase of a non-controlled substance that has been represented to be a controlled dangerous substance
- k. Use and/or possession of tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, cigarette rolling paper or electronic cigarettes repeated offense

DISRESPECT/INSUBORDINATION

- l. Conspiracy or planning between two or more persons to commit a Category III offense
- m. Disruptive behavior that results in the interference with the normal school program, including repeated Category I or II offenses
- n. Bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation for any reason
- o. Interfering with another student's right to attend school or classes
- p. Participating in and/or inciting a school disruption

SEX OFFENSES

- q. Inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature
- r. Indecent exposure

WEAPONS

- s. Possession of a look-alike weapon of any kind
- t. Possession of a pocket knife

OTHER

- u. Destruction and/or vandalism of school property, personal property of students and/or faculty. This includes receipt, sale, possession or distribution of property stolen from Baltimore County Public Schools. Restitution is required, either monetary or schoolwork project.
- v. Exchange of money for an illegal purpose
- w. Reckless endangerment resulting in injury to a person
- x. Theft and/or knowingly possessing stolen property
- y. Trespassing
- z. Violation of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students
- aa. Violation of the Board's gang policy

C. Category III

1. Examples of offenses that may result in assignment to an alternative program or expulsion:

ARSON/FIRE/EXPLOSIVES

- a. Arson
- b. Bomb Threat
- c. Detonation of an incendiary or explosive material or device, including live ammunition (firecracker or greater)

ATTACKS/THREATS/FIGHTING

- d. Striking a staff member who is intervening in a fight or other disruptive activity (intentional or unintentional)
- e. Physical attack(s) on a staff member
- f. Violent behavior which creates a substantial danger to persons or property or causes serious bodily injury

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

- g. Distribution and/or sale of alcohol
- h. Distribution and/or sale of controlled dangerous substances (illegal drugs)
- i. Possession of alcohol
- j. Possession of controlled dangerous substances (illegal drugs)
- k. Prescription violation (misuse of prescribed medications) including failure to have medications administered by school nurse or delegated personnel
- l. Use of a controlled dangerous substance (illegal drugs), under the influence of a controlled substance or showing evidence of having used a controlled substance
- m. Use of alcohol, under the influence of alcohol or showing evidence of having consumed alcohol
- n. Use of any intoxicants which causes a loss of self-control or inebriation and which shall include glue, solvents or synthetic drugs and substances

SEX OFFENSES

- o. Sexual assault

WEAPONS

- P. Possession and/or use of a firearm on school property one-year expulsion)
- q. Possession or use of any other gun or rifle (loaded or unloaded, operable or inoperable) which shall include, but not be limited to, pellet gun, paintball gun, stun gun, BB gun, flare gun or nail gun¹
- r. Possession or use of a real weapon of any kind which shall include, but not BE limited to, switchblade knife, hunting knife, star knife, razors (including straight or retractable razor), nunchaku, spiked glove, spiked wristband, any mace derivative, tear gas device or pepper spray product
- s. Use of a look-alike gun or rifle (loaded or unloaded, operable or inoperable)²
- t. Use of a look-alike weapon of any kind which shall include, but not be limited to, switchblade knife, hunting knife, star knife, pocket knife, razors including straight or retractable razor, nunchaku, spiked glove or spiked wristband
- u. Use of a pocketknife or any object as a weapon

OTHER

- v. Robbery

V. Scope of Authority

- A. This behavior code applies to all students enrolled in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS). The provisions of this policy apply in all situations in which students are involved, including:
 - 1. All school-sponsored activities on property owned or leased by the Board or held off of school grounds, including but not limited to: field trips, extracurricular activities or social events;
 - 2. Travel on school buses or other official means of transportation; and
 - 3. On-site or off-site school-related problems which are the result or cause of disruptive behavior on school grounds.

¹ The use of permanently inoperable or wooden look-alike rifles by JROTC or color guard/marching band students shall not be a violation of this policy during instructional time and at any other times when under the direct supervision of JROTC or color guard/marching band instructors.

² See Footnote 1 above.

- B. A student may be subject to disciplinary responses when he or she commits an act or acts away and apart from school and school property that can be shown to pose a threat or danger to the safety of other students, staff or school property; and/or the act or acts prevents the orderly delivery of the instructional program at school.

VI. Compliance

The Superintendent will ensure that all students and parents are advised of the student behavior code, including the prohibited conduct and enumerated offenses outlined in this policy.

VII. Implementation

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §7151, *Gun-Free Schools Act*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Law Article §3-805, *Misuse of Electronic Mail*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-305, *Suspension and expulsion*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-424.1, *Model Policy Prohibiting Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-424.2, *Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression Efforts*
COMAR 13A.01.04.03, *School Safety*
COMAR 13A.02.04, *Tobacco-Free Environment*
COMAR 13A.08.01.04, *Unlawful Absence*
COMAR 13A.08.01.08, *Substance Use or Distribution*
COMAR 13A.08.01.11, *Disciplinary Action*
COMAR 13A.08.01.12, *Arrests on School Premises*
COMAR 13A.08.01.12-1, *Bringing or Possessing a Firearm on School Property*
COMAR 13A.08.01.15, *Reporting Delinquent Acts*
COMAR 13A.08.01.17, *School Use of Reportable Offenses*
COMAR 13A.08.01.21, *Reducing and Eliminating Disproportionate/Discrepant Impact*
COMAR 13A.08.04, *Student Behavior Interventions*
Baltimore County Code, Miscellaneous Provisions and Offenses Article §17-1-118, *Synthetic Cannabinoid*

- Related Policies:
- Board of Education Policy 3532, *Restitution for Vandalism*
 - Board of Education Policy 5000, *Students*
 - Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*
 - Board of Education Policy 5330, *Social Events*
 - Board of Education Policy 5500, *Code of Student Conduct*
 - Board of Education Policy 5510, *Positive Behavior*
 - Board of Education Policy 5520, *Student Dress Code*
 - Board of Education Policy 5530, *Student Use and Possession of Tobacco*
 - Board of Education Policy 5540, *Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances, Intoxicants, Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs*
 - Board of Education Policy 5551, *Gang Activity and Similar Destructive or Illegal Behavior*
 - Board of Education Policy 5560, *Suspensions, Assignment to Alternative Programs or Expulsions*
 - Board of Education Policy 5561, *School Use of Reportable Offenses*
 - Board of Education Policy 5580, *Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment or Intimidation*
 - Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Responsibilities and Rights*
 - Board of Education Policy 5610, *School-Sponsored Publications and Productions*
 - Board of Education Policy 6202, *Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students*
 - Board of Education Policy 6702, *Extracurricular Activities*
 - Board of Education Policy 6800, *Field Trips and Foreign Travel*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

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