

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** January 13, 2009

**TO:** **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**FROM:** Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5120 – STUDENTS: ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE, ATTENDANCE AND EXUCSE**

**ORIGINATOR:** Patricia Abernethy, Chief Academic Officer

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services  
Sharon Ochs, Coordinator, Pupil Personnel Services

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education considers the proposed changes to Policy 5120. This is the third reading of this policy.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 5120

**Policy Analysis for  
Board of Education Policy 5120  
Attendance and Excuses**

Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed

Board of Education Policy 5120 is being recommended for revisions to comply with COMAR provisions regarding attendance and enrollment.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

No fiscal impact is anticipated by the revision of this policy.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Board of Education Policy 5110, *Attendance and Enrollment*.

Legal Requirements

*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-101, §7-303

COMAR

13A.08.01.01

13A.08.01.02

13A.08.01.03

13A.08.01.04

14A.08.01.05

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

1. Harford County Policy 02-0001-000, *Student Attendance*
2. Howard County Policy 9010, *Attendance*

Draft of Proposed Policy

Attached

Other Alternatives Considered by Staff

No other alternatives were considered.

Timeline:

First reading: November 19, 2008

Public comment: December 2, 2008

Third reading: January 13, 2009

STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance

I. Attendance and Excuses

[1.] A. Age of Attendance

1. All individuals who are five (5) years old by [December 31] SEPTEMBER 1 or TURNING [up to] twenty-one (21) AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL [upon entering the senior year] may enroll in the public schools [until graduation]. SENIORS, WHO TURN 21, MUST BE ELIGIBLE FOR GRADUATION BY THE END OF THAT SCHOOL YEAR.
2. Children admitted to a pre-kindergarten program in the public schools shall be four (4) years old on or before [December 31] SEPTEMBER 1 of the year they apply for entrance.

[2.] B. Regularity of Attendance

1. The Board of Education OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) emphasizes the value of regular attendance in enabling students to [profit] BENEFIT from the school program. The teachers, the school administration, and the Department of Student SUPPORT Services will work cooperatively to reduce the problems of absenteeism. The Superintendent [of Schools] shall develop procedures for the review of the attendance of all students.

Legal ReferenceS: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article, §7-101, §7-302

[Admission of Students]

[Report of absences and maladjustment]

[State Board of Education Bylaws] COMAR

13A.08.01.04

13A.08.01.05

13A.08.01.02 [Attendance]

13A.08.02.03 [Lawful Absence]

13A.08.01.01 [Attendance]

Policy  
Adopted: 11/21/68  
Revised: 12/6/84  
Revised: 6/27/95  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County