

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** May 19, 2009

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **REPORT ON THE PROPOSED NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION  
POLICY 5580 - BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION**

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

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director, Student Support Services  
Glenda Myrick, Coordinator, Safe and Drug-Free Schools

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education reviews the new Policy 5580. This is the first reading of this policy.

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Attachment I: Policy Analysis 5580  
Attachment II: Policy 5580

**Policy Analysis for  
Board of Education Policy 5580  
Bullying, Harassment, Or Intimidation**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

Board of Education Policy 5580 is new. On February 24, 2009, Maryland State Board of Education adopted a model policy to address bullying, harassment, or intimidation. (<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/0700B064-C2B3-41FC-A6CF-D3DAE4969707/19401/ModelBullyingPolicyDRAFT102108.pdf>). On July 1, 2008, the Maryland General Assembly directed the Maryland State Board of Education, in consultation with local school systems, to develop and adopt a Model Policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation in schools.

**Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System**

Minimal fiscal impact is anticipated by the adoption of this policy. There will be a need for training materials.

**Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies**

Board of Education Policy 5510, *Positive Behavior*  
Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*

**Legal Requirements**

*Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-424.1

**Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems**

This is a new policy that each county Board must establish to prohibit bullying, harassment, or intimidation based on the model policy developed by the Maryland State Department of Education. However, other school systems have policies prohibiting harassment, and they include:

1. Anne Arundel County, Policy JCC-RAE, *Harassment and Intimidation/Hazing/Bullying/Bias Behavior*
2. Montgomery County, Policy JFA-RA, *Student's Right and Responsibilities*

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

None

**Timeline:**

- First reading – May 19, 2009
- Public comment – June 9, 2009
- Third reading – July 14, 2009

STUDENTS: BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION

I. PROHIBITION

- A. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) PROHIBITS STUDENTS ENGAGING IN INTENTIONAL CONDUCT INVOLVING BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION THAT SUBSTANTIALLY INTERFERES WITH A STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. THE BOARD PROHIBITS ANY REPRISAL OR RETALIATION AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO REPORTS AN ACT OF BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION.
  
- B. THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL TAKE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE ACTIONS TO:
  - 1. ESTABLISH, IMPLEMENT, AND MAINTAIN PROCEDURES BASED ON THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S (MSDE) MODEL POLICY PROHIBITING BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION IN SCHOOLS.
  
  - 2. CREATE A REPORTING PROCESS FOR USE IN SCHOOLS; ESTABLISH PROPER SYSTEMWIDE REPORTING TO MSDE.
  
  - 3. PUBLICIZE THIS POLICY.
  
  - 4. DEVELOP/CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS, AND VOLUNTEERS IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION INCIDENTS IN SCHOOLS.

RELATED POLICY: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 5510, *SCHOOL DISCIPLINE*

LEGAL REFERENCE: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND*, EDUCATION  
ARTICLE §7-424.1

POLICY  
ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY