

**BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**DATE:** December 6, 2011

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

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

**SUBJECT:** **CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1240 – VISITS TO SCHOOLS**

**ORIGINATOR:** Renee A. Foose, Deputy Superintendent

**RESOURCE PERSON(S):** Michele O. Prumo, Chief of Staff

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy 1240 – *Visits to Schools*.  
This is the third reading.

\*\*\*\*\*

Attachment I – Policy Analysis  
Attachment II – Policy 1240

**POLICY ANALYSIS FOR  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1240  
VISITS TO SCHOOLS**

**Statement of Issues or Questions Addressed**

In accordance with Board of Education Policy and Superintendent's Rule 8130, Board of Education Policy 1240 is scheduled for review in school year 2011-2012. Policy 1240 encourages visitors in our schools while establishing procedures for screening, scheduling meetings, and excluding visitors from school premises. Staff is recommending that Policy 1240 be revised to: (1) Rename the policy to "Visitors in Schools;" (2) Include a philosophy statement that encourages participation in our schools while providing procedures to ensure a safe and secure school environment; (3) Include an implementation section; (4) Conform with the Policy Review Committee's editing conventions.

**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**

1. Board of Education Policy 1200, *Community Involvement*
2. Board of Education Policy 1260, *School Volunteers*
3. Board of Education Policy 1270, *Parent and Family Involvement*

**Legal Requirements**

1. *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §26-101, *Disturbing Activities at School or College; Molesting or Threatening Students*.
2. *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §26-102, *Trespass on the Grounds of a Public Institution of Elementary, Secondary, or Higher Education*.
3. *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Criminal Law Article §6-409, *Refusal or Failure to Leave Public Building or Grounds*.
4. *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Criminal Procedure Article §11-722, *Entry onto School or Day Care Property Prohibited*.

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

1. Anne Arundel County Board of Education, Policy KD, *Visitors to the Schools*
2. Harford County Board of Education, Policy 06-0029-000, *Visitors*
3. Howard County Board of Education, Policy 3020, *Trespassing or Willful Disturbance*

**Draft of Proposed Policy**

Attached

**Other Alternatives Considered by Staff**

No other alternatives were considered.

**Timeline**

First reading – October 25, 2011

Public comment – November 8, 2011

Third reading/vote – December 6, 2011

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement

VISITORS TO SCHOOLS [Visits to Schools]

I. PHILOSOPHY

*THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) ENCOURAGES THE PARTICIPATION OF FAMILIES AND THE COMMUNITY IN THE BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ENCOURAGES VISITORS TO VISIT CLASSROOMS AND PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS. THE BOARD RECOGNIZES ITS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE AND SECURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, STAFF, AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY THROUGH APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION OF VISITORS.*

II. IMPLEMENTATION

*THE BOARD DIRECTS THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE RULES AND PROCEDURES CONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY.*

*[The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to establish procedures which shall:*

- a. Encourage visitors to observe instruction and participate in school programs.
- b. Provide for a safe and secure environment through appropriate identification of visitors.]

LEGAL REFERENCES: *ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §26-101, DISTURBING ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL OR COLLEGE; MOLESTING OR THREATENING STUDENTS.*  
*ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, EDUCATION ARTICLE §26-102, TRESPASS ON THE GROUNDS OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, OR HIGHER EDUCATION.*  
*ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE §6-409, REFUSAL OR FAILURE TO LEAVE PUBLIC BUILDING OR GROUNDS.*

*ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, CRIMINAL  
PROCEDURE ARTICLE §11-722, ENTRY ONTO  
SCHOOL OR DAY CARE PROPERTY PROHIBITED.*

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1200, *COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1260, *SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEERS*  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1270, *PARENT AND  
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT*

Policy  
Adopted: 10/09/69  
Revised: 06/23/77  
Revised: 03/27/07  
REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Education of Baltimore County