I. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes its responsibility to provide school transportation services for eligible students based on safety, efficiency, adequacy, consistency and economy.

II. Definitions

A. Home School – The school serving the attendance area where the student is domiciled with their parent or guardian.

B. Parent – A natural parent, legal guardian or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of the parent or guardian.

III. Standards

A. The Office of Transportation is responsible for establishing transportation boundaries for all schools.

B. School bus transportation is provided under the jurisdiction of the Board for students who reside within the transportation boundary for their home school for:
   1. All-day prekindergarten, elementary and middle school students who must walk more than one (1) mile to their home school;
   2. High school students who must walk more than one and one-half (1-1/2) miles to their home school; and
   3. All half-day prekindergarten students.

C. The Office of Transportation shall develop guidelines for the transportation of eligible students beyond the transportation boundary surrounding a school when:
   1. An accommodation or assistance is required by a student’s individualized education program and/or 504 plan;
   2. A student is identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
   3. A student is enrolled in an authorized Baltimore County Public Schools’ (BCPS) educational program; or
4. The Office of Transportation has determined the walking conditions are unsafe and transportation is required.

D. The supervision of non-transported students to and from school is the responsibility of the students’ parents.

E. Students who attend a private elementary or secondary school in Baltimore County may be transported in accordance with the provisions of the Baltimore County code.
   1. Bus transportation service will be provided on a space-available basis along established BCPS’ school bus routes.
   2. Private school students shall adhere to the same safety and discipline policies and procedures as those required of BCPS students.

F. BCPS students are subject to the Board’s disciplinary policies while embarking, exiting from and riding in vehicles used for BCPS transportation.

IV. Reporting

The Superintendent shall report on this policy twice each school year.

V. Implementation

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
42 U.S.C. §§ 11431, et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (as amended by ESSA)
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 7-801, et seq., Transportation
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 8-410, Transportation for Children with Disabilities
COMAR 13A.06.07, Student Transportation
Baltimore County Code, Article 28, § 28-1-102, Transportation of Private School Students – Authorized
Related Policies:  Board of Education Policy 3420, *Student Transportation – Bus Routes and Bus Stops*
Board of Education Policy 5140, *Assignment and/or Special Permission Transfer*
Board of Education Policy 5500, *Code of Student Conduct*
Board of Education Policy 5550, *Student Behavior Code*
Board of Education Policy 6400, *Magnet Programs*

Related Rules:  Superintendent’s Rule 3420, *Student Transportation – Bus Routes and Bus Stops*
Superintendent’s Rule 5140, *Assignment and/or Special Permission Transfer*
Superintendent's Rule 6303, *Emergency Closures, Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal of Schools and/or Offices*
Superintendent’s Rule 6400, *Magnet Programs*