STUDENTS: Enrollment and Attendance

Compulsory Attendance

I. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes that students are required to be enrolled in school and attending or participating in a school-related activity each day that school is in session. The Board believes that regular attendance is paramount in ensuring that all students will graduate from high school and become responsible, life-long learners, and productive citizens.

II. Attendance

A. Each child who is 5 years old or older and under 17 on or after July 1, 2015, and under 18 on or after July 1, 2017, who is domiciled in Baltimore County with the child’s parent, guardian, or relative providing informal kinship care shall be required to attend Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) regularly during the entire school year, unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in the public schools to children of the same age, or is exempted from attendance as provided by state law or regulation.

B. Each child who is 5 years old or older on September 1 shall be enrolled in kindergarten, unless otherwise exempt by state law or regulation.

C. Every student should be encouraged to complete the requirements for graduation, if eligible, or to take advantage of opportunities available through educational options.

III. Implementation

A. The Superintendent shall establish procedures to ensure that students are enrolled in and regularly attending school in accordance with Maryland law or regulation.

B. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.
Legal References:  
*Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-101, Admission of Students; Location; Kindergarten Programs*
*Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-301, Compulsory Attendance*
COMAR 13A.08.01.01, *Attendance*
COMAR 13A.08.01.02, *Age for School Attendance*
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-1, *Definitions*
COMAR 13A.08.01.02-2, *Exemptions to Kindergarten Attendance Requirement*
COMAR 13A.08.01.05, *Student Attendance Policy*

Related Policies:  
Board of Education Policy 5000, *Students*
Board of Education Policy 5110, *Admissions*
Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*
Board of Education Policy 5130, *Withdrawal from School Prior to Graduation*
Board of Education Policy 5140, *School Attendance Areas*
Board of Education Policy 5150, *Residents and Nonresidents*