STUDENTS: Conduct

Positive School Climate

I. Policy Statement

A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) is committed to providing an environment that is safe, inclusive, respectful and conducive to learning. The Board believes that a positive school climate is essential to student achievement.

B. The Board believes that schoolwide expectations for behavior should be clearly stated, communicated, taught and frequently referenced.

II. Standards

A. All schools will publish expectations for positive student behavior by developing and implementing a schoolwide positive behavior plan. This plan should set forth clear expectations for student behavior and be communicated to students, staff and parents/guardians. Social-emotional learning skill development, character education and safety should be integral components of the schoolwide positive behavior plan.

B. The school’s schoolwide positive behavior plan shall be implemented and assessed for effectiveness on an ongoing basis.

C. Ongoing professional development and support related to proactive strategies to prevent problem behaviors, including interventions and supports based on best practices and cultural responsiveness, shall be provided for staff.

D. Students shall be expected to behave appropriately in school and while participating in school-sponsored activities. Each school shall support students in learning skills necessary to enhance a positive school climate, avoid problem behavior and discourage violations of the Code of Student conduct.

E. Character Education shall be a component of the school’s positive behavior plan as an ongoing teaching process to promote positive behavior and ethical decision-making.
F. Social-emotional skill development shall be included in the educational program as a tool for promoting positive behavior.

III. Implementation

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal References:  *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-305, Suspension and Expulsion Procedures*
*COMAR 13A.08.01.11, Disciplinary Action*

Related Policies:  Board of Education Policy 0100, *Equity*
Board of Education Policy 5000, *Students*
Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*
Board of Education Policy 5500, *Code of Student Conduct*
Board of Education Policy 5520, *Student Dress Code*
Board of Education Policy 5540, *Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances, Inhalants, Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs*
Board of Education Policy 5550, *Student Behavior Code*
Board of Education Policy 5551, *Gangs, Gang Activity and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5560, *Suspensions and Expulsions*
Board of Education Policy 5561, *School Use of Reportable Offenses*
Board of Education Policy 5580, *Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment or Intimidation*
Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students’ Responsibilities and Rights*
Board of Education Policy 6202, *Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students*
Board of Education Policy 6702, *Extracurricular Activities*