



STUDENTS: Conduct

Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment or Intimidation

I. Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) is committed to ensuring that every student learns in an environment that is safe and secure and conducive to learning. The Board believes that bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation are disruptive to learning and can adversely affect academic achievement, emotional well-being and school climate.
- B. The Board prohibits bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation by any person on Board property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, on a school bus or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.
- C. The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any individual who reports an act of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation.

II. Definitions

- A. *Board Property* – Any Board-owned, controlled or leased property or vehicle regardless of whether students are present.
- B. *Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation* – Any intentional conduct, including verbal, physical or written conduct, or an electronic communication (cyberbullying) that:
 - 1. Creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance, or with a student’s physical or psychological well-being and is:
 - a. Motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity (including gender expression), religion, ancestry, physical attribute, socioeconomic status, familial status or physical or mental ability or disability; or
 - b. Threatening or seriously intimidating; and
 - 2. Occurs on Board property, at a school-sponsored activity or event or on a school bus; or
 - 3. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

- C. *Cyberbullying* -
 - 1. A communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, the use of social media sites, telephone, cellular phone, computer, tablet or any electronic communication device.
 - 2. Cyberbullying includes the use of social media sites and all of the other means identified in subparagraph II(C)(1) above and any future applications that fall under “electronic communication.”

III. Standards

- A. The Superintendent will implement a systemwide anti-bullying program that includes prevention, intervention, consequences and remedial actions for any person engaged in, making a false accusation of and/or committing an act of reprisal or retaliation related to bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation.
- B. The Board delegates authority to the Superintendent to take necessary and appropriate actions to:
 - 1. Establish, implement and maintain procedures to ensure that all schools comply with the Maryland State Board of Education’s (MSDE) *Model Policy Prohibiting Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation In Schools*;
 - 2. Create a reporting process for use in schools that includes systemwide reporting to MSDE;
 - 3. Establish procedures for prompt investigation of acts of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment or intimidation;
 - 4. Publicize this policy; and
 - 5. Develop and conduct educational programs for students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators and volunteers in order to implement the policy in an effort to prevent bullying, cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation incidents in schools.

IV. Implementation

- A. In accordance with State law, the Superintendent shall ensure that Board Policy 5580 is updated and submitted to the State Superintendent by January 1, 2017, and every 5 years thereafter.
- B. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §1232g, *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Law Article §3-805, *Misuse of Electronic Mail*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-424, *Reports relating to Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation of Students*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-424.1, *Model Policy Prohibiting Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-424.3, *School Policies Prohibiting Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation*
COMAR 13A.01.04.03, *School Safety*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 0100, *Equity*
Board of Education Policy 5500, *Code of Student Conduct*
Board of Education Policy 5510, *Positive Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5560, *Suspensions, Assignment to Alternative Programs or Expulsion*
Board of Education Policy 5600, *Students' Responsibilities and Rights*
Board of Education Policy 6202, *Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 07/14/09

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