

Baltimore County Public Schools Amendment A - Policy/Rule 6400

Current: Link to the current Policy/Rules 6400 for reference:

http://www.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/policies/6000Series/POL6400.pdf

Changes: Include the following definition and purpose in the Policy

Definition:

Baltimore County Public Schools' magnet programs are unique, theme-related, educational options that serve as incubators for innovative instructional practice, draw students across school attendance boundaries, in accordance with state rated capacity, to BCPS-approved locations through the magnet application and admissions process.

Purpose:

- provide elementary, middle, and high school students and parents with public school choice options that are different from those generally offered in other district schools;
- address students' interests, talents, and abilities through specialized programs of study and/or experiences in unique educational environments;
- provide relevant educational opportunities aligned with evolving community and business needs;
- serve as incubators for innovative instruction that extends and enriches curricula; and
- promote student diversity (i.e., racial, ethnic, economic, gender, and special needs)

Definitions

Page 1

II.B. replace with "...child or student"

C. replace with "...child or student"

D1. "Child must be in Baltimore County..." may be better language.

Page 2

G. replace with the above definition and purpose of magnet programs

Letter I. Remove ambiguity by deleting the first sentence and saying, "For BCPS employees, the primary work location is determined by HR."

J. Should be "Any child or student **for**..." rather than current 'from'."

L. Checked with Law Office for a complete definition for "sibling." The question to the Law Office asked whether "legally adopted child" should be added to the list of siblings. The answer from the Law Office was "...Because adoption terminates parental rights and vests those rights in the adoptive parents, I do believe a legally adopted child would simply fall into the 'brother/sister' category without the need for further clarification..." – Valerie Thompson, Associate General Counsel.

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III. A.5. replace with "Ensure that information is made available..."

Page 4

B1a. "An application must be filled out in its entirety and signed by the parent of the applicant."

B1c. [new] “Required documentation unavailable from BCPS must be submitted by the student prior to a deadline selected by OMP.”

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VI. A [Delete]; B becomes A and C becomes B

C. Priority based systemic needs may be deemed by the Superintendent

Page 8

VIII. A. add “...and contract...after “application”

C. add “...at the time of registration/enrollment” after “transfer form.”

Note: the additions to VIII were to keep this section aligned with Policy/Rule 5140. Note: It was unclear whether policies 6400 and 5140 must be aligned.

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IX. B.1 Who decides if a student can be accommodated and how is the decision made? How do the principal and Transportation Department coordinate? Does this section align with policy/rule 5140 and should it?

X.C. Precede header for C with “Parents should be informed about the temporary leave option described in IX.C.1. Parents may request that a student be granted temporary leave from a magnet program.

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X.C.2.a Replace the first sentence with “If students move from Baltimore County temporarily, they may be granted a leave of absence for a maximum of one year from the date of withdrawal.

X.C.3. renumber as X.2.b.(3). Keep wording the same

X.D Keep wording the same

X.D.2 Returning from expulsion. Note: there may be some confusion between policy/rules 6400 and policy/rules 5550 and 5140. The issue is whether removal from magnet programs and subsequent reinstatement should be governed totally under policy/rules 6400. Also of concern is whether policy/rules 6400 have to be synchronized with policy/rules 5550 and 5140. On another aspect of X.D.2, it may be better if the paragraph on the completion of the expulsion period listed when students should *not* be allowed to return to a magnet program rather than whether the student will be returned to the magnet or to the zoned school or other appropriate site.

Further recommendations related to X.D.2:

1. Principals should be advised that students who are currently serving suspension by the action of the superintendent or his designee are entitled to return to their magnet school program provided that the designee in consultation has agreement of the assistant superintendent for that school. (6400)
2. Principals need to be reminded that the word MAY in both 5140 and 6400 as it relates to possible reasons why a student may be removed from a magnet program means MAY not WILL.
3. Principals should not invoke the removal of a student under 5140 or 6400 prior to the suspended student being given an opportunity to demonstrate both behavioral and academic success in their assigned alternative program. Many magnet principals announce or initiate the removal process on the day of suspension which was never the intention of the policy/rule.

4. Principals should follow all established time lines and procedures in 5140/6400 to ensure fairness and equitable treatment of all students.
5. Principals should be reminded that Board Policy 5560 and Superintendent's Rule 5560 provide for mitigation which is a process whereby a parent petitions for the return of their child to the last assigned school. Mitigation policy/rule 5560 should not be trumped by 5140 or 6400. All policies and rules need to be carefully interpreted and applied to ensure fairness and equitable treatment of all students.

Pages 10-11

XI.A, C. Withdrawal from Program. The issue is similar to X (Continued Enrollment). There are several policies/rules, particularly 6400 (magnet), 5140 (special transfer), and the 5500 series that deals with disruptive behavior/discipline (e.g., 5516, 5517, 5550). The issue again revolves around should 6400 (magnet) be the predominant policy/rules when dealing with magnet programs and students. Even if preeminent, does 6400 have to be consistent with the aforementioned policies/rules. For example, should admission to magnet programs outside of students' zoned school be handled strictly through 6400, including transportation accommodations, whether or not 6400 mimics the other aforementioned policies/rules? Based on the material from the Office of Student Behavior, it would seem that discipline policies and procedures for magnet students should be the same as for any BCPS student.

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XII.F.1.c Appeal Process, rephrase to clarify to which school year the appeal is referring.. For example consider "The current school year most recently ended," in case the appeal is made during the summer