

BALTIMORE COUNTY STUDENT COUNCILS PLATFORM

Plank I - Education

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Diversity in school curricula to allow for specific areas of study that would provide students with a variety of engaging classes that support what they may want to pursue in the future.
- B. A weighted grading system which recognizes honors and gifted and talented courses on report cards, transcripts and course syllabi.
- C. The enforcement of academic eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities.
- D. Programs that promote computer literacy and technological education in addition to and as a part of the development of fundamental elementary goals.
- E. Equitable access to early intervention programs that enable all children to start school ready to learn.
- F. The encouragement of students towards voluntary involvement within the community.
- G. A variety of primary and secondary school magnet programs that are accessible county-wide.
- H. The implementation of leadership training opportunities in all primary and secondary schools. These leadership training opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Providing events that are facilitated by the students themselves
 - b. Conversational debates on current issues
 - c. Developing networking, communication, and management skills
 - d. Workshops
- I. Students not being penalized for absences from school for approved activities. These approved activities include, but are not limited to:
 - a. National or international competitions in which the student is competing in
 - b. Academic events
- J. Foreign language classes beginning in primary school no later than 4th grade.
 - a. All primary schools should offer the same foreign languages.
- K. The mandatory completion of all required standardized tests to a passing standard in order to graduate high school.
- L. Implementation of AVID programs in all secondary Baltimore County Public Schools.
- M. The use of portable electronic devices for educational purposes in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- N. The inclusion of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs that meet BCPS standards.
 - a. Priority should be given to primary schools and schools with a large population of non-English speaking students.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Year-round schooling.
- B. State legislators mandating curriculum.
- C. Any academic class greater than 30 students.
- D. In-school punishment for out-of-school behavior.
- E. A legal dropout age lower than 16.
- F. Discrimination and segregation based on, but not limited to: special needs, disabilities, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and sexual orientation.

Plank II - Youth Representation

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Appointment of the elected student members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the Maryland State Board of Education.
- B. Designation of the student members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the Maryland State Board of Education as full voting members.
 - a. The term “full voting member” is outlined in *Code of Maryland Regulations* (COMAR) and includes voting on all issues, calendar, personnel negative or positive, etc.
- C. Appointment of student representatives on private sector boards and commissions which deal with youth related issues at the local, county, and state levels.
- D. Creation and/or continuation of student government programs in all primary and secondary schools in Baltimore County under the guidance of a qualified faculty advisor.
- E. The appointment and fair compensation of advisors to support the empowerment and representation of students.

Plank III - Funding

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Full local, state, and federal funding for programs mandated for implementation in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- B. An equitable distribution of resources across the county.
- C. Proportionate funding to meet the needs for all areas of study.
- D. Equitable magnet program funding.
- E. Providing funding for year-round food pantries that are accessible county-wide.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Any voucher program that would use public money to fund private school education.
- B. Any proposal for the creation and implementation of a program that does not outline how it will be funded.

Plank IV - School Personnel

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. The availability of trained health professionals in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- B. Full staffing for the purpose of assisting students with special needs.
- C. The hiring and placement of guidance counselors and school nurses based upon school populations, not a countywide standard.
- D. The hiring of at least one additional qualified staff member per school to focus completely on substitute teaching.
- E. Ensuring that teachers are fully involved in all of their classes and keeping them accountable for their work through spontaneous teacher evaluations.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. The removal of teachers that have been performing well in their schools and meet all BCPS guidelines.

Plank V - Building Maintenance and School Safety

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Equitable funding for general reservations of schools
- B. Adequate custodial staffing for all BCPS schools
- C. School environments that allow all students to thrive and learn efficiently.
- D. Increased parking for faculty, staff, and students.
- E. Implementation of methods to prevent school vandalism.
- F. School Resource Officers (SROs) in all schools.
 - a. The amount of SROs that a school has will be based upon school population and necessity.
- G. Assigned police officers in school parking lots at the opening and closing of every school day.
- H. Maintaining locked doors at all times with key card access systems to prevent the entrance of trespassers.
- I. Having proper drills and updated safety protocols in all schools.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Safety measures that inhibit the school climate and learning environment.

Plank VI - Health and Student Safety

The Baltimore County Students Councils supports:

- A. Student organizations that use peer leadership in the prevention of all forms of bullying.
- B. Support services for the prevention and treatment of all forms of bullying in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- C. Strict, zero-tolerance policy for bullying in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- D. Peer counseling programs in schools.
- E. The establishment of “wellness networks” in the community.
- F. Providing access and raising awareness about resources available for students when in need of confidential support.

- G. Nutritious food choices in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- H. Efforts to prevent youth suicide and self-harm.
- I. Maintaining clean drinking water for all students.
- J. Ensuring school buildings have functional heating and cooling to maintain the proper learning environment.
- K. Strategic intervention by trained teachers and guidance counselors in more severe cases of bullying.

Plank VII - Substance Abuse

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Compliance with existing laws which prohibit alcohol consumption by persons under the age of 21 years and the use of tobacco products by persons under the age of 18.
- B. Continued education in all Baltimore County Public Schools on the problems and dangers of different types of controlled and illegal substances focusing on the biological and social hazards and effects of their use.
- C. Continued support of "drug free schools" and the establishment of smoking cessation clinics to assist students and staff in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- D. Full funding of state and local programs to eliminate substance abuse for faculty and students.
- E. The availability of wellness centers as a source of information and treatment for faculty and students.
- F. Student organizations and services for the prevention of substance abuse and all other destructive decisions in every primary and secondary school in Baltimore County.
- G. A mandatory disciplinary action for students caught smoking, drinking, abusing, or carrying any of the following substances while under the jurisdiction of the school system. These substances include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Marijuana
 - b. Illegal drugs
 - c. Opioids, painkillers, or other prescribed medication
 - d. Juuls or other electronic cigarettes
 - e. Cigarettes or other tobacco products
 - f. Over the counter drugs
- H. Distribution of information about the problems and dangers of substance abuse among students in all primary and secondary school.
- I. Continued education regarding current drunk driving laws in primary and secondary schools.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. The searching and drug testing of students based on unsubstantiated rumors.
- B. The use of non-medicinal drugs and substances.

- C. Possession and/or use of tobacco products containing nicotine, and nicotine replacement products on school premises by students and faculty.

Plank VIII - Teenage Pregnancy, Family Planning, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Distribution of factual information, the development of communication, and decision-making skills.
- B. Full and effective implementation and support of required family life and human development courses.
- C. Curriculum that teaches principles of safe sex and contraception for all sexual orientations.
- D. Availability of condoms in Baltimore County secondary schools with appropriate support.
- E. Employment of teachers who are qualified to teach family life and human development courses.
- F. Continuation of STI prevention education in high school and an increased amount of STI prevention education at the middle school level.
- G. Health courses providing adequate information about family planning, human development and general wellness as a Maryland state graduation requirement.

Plank IX - Environment

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Continuation of environmentally-friendly schools.
- B. Energy conservation programs at the facility and instructed levels.
- C. The inclusion of environmental programs in Baltimore County Public Schools as options for summer programs, school clubs, internships, community center programs and student activities.
- D. Limiting the use of harmful chemicals on school properties where students learn, play, or convene.
- E. The minimization of waste products within the schools and the maximization of reusing and recycling of used materials.
- F. The use of provided bus transportation to conserve energy and resources.
- G. The encouragement of carpooling for driving students as well as faculty and staff.
- H. A comprehensive Green Schools program in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- I. The implementation of climate change solutions which include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Climate education
 - b. Renewable energy sources
 - c. Removal of single use plastics

Plank X - Civic Responsibility

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. The establishment of programs that encourage youth to participate in civic oriented activities.
- B. The distribution of voter registration forms in 12th grade.
- C. Efforts by student organizations to donate time and money to charitable causes.

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