



STUDENTS: Conduct
Disruptive Behavior

I. Purpose

To implement Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) Policy 5550 by establishing guidelines for Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) administrators and staff members when responding to violations.

II. Definitions

- A. *Cyberbullying* – The use of electronic communication to harm or harass others in a deliberate, repeated and hostile manner.
- B. *Educational Purposes* – Those tasks performed by students which are directly related to BCPS’ curricular assignments, projects or research.
- C. *Electronic Communication* – A communication transmitted or received by means of any electronic device, including, but not limited to, radio, television, cable, telephone, computer systems, networks, copiers, scanners, cell phones/smart devices and fax machines.
- D. *Electronic Device* – Any device (personal or BCPS issued) including, but not limited to, desktop computers, laptops, smartphones, iPads, tablets or e-readers.
- E. *Regular Instructional Hours* – The school day, beginning at the opening bell and concluding at the dismissal bell.
- F. *School Administrator* – School principal or in the absence of the principal, the administrator designated by the principal.
- G. *School Property* – Any Board-owned, controlled or leased property or vehicle regardless of whether students are present.
- H. *School-sponsored Activity* – An activity that is sponsored, approved, conducted, planned and/or supervised by school personnel, regardless of whether the activity takes place on or off school property or occurs during regular instructional hours.

III. Guidelines

- A. BCPS will publish a student handbook annually which will include standards for student behavior and disciplinary consequences for violations of those standards.
- B. School administrators will receive annual training and resources necessary to implement this Rule. Training and resources will address:
 - 1. The contents of Board Policy and Superintendent’s Rule 5550 and other policies on student conduct, code of student conduct and the *Student Handbook*.
 - 2. Behavior interventions, supports and responses to prohibited conduct and enumerated offenses.
- C. BCPS will use behavior interventions and/or supports, as appropriate, to ensure that disciplinary consequences include opportunities for students to understand the nature of their behavioral violation and to motivate students to change those behaviors to avoid future violations.
- D. The school administrator will investigate an alleged violation of this policy to determine what, if any, type and number of interventions and supports to use prior to taking any disciplinary action. Administrators are not required to utilize the interventions or supports in sequential order. Administrators are required to document each intervention, support and/or disciplinary action.
- E. When a student violates Policy 5550, school administrators will determine the appropriate disciplinary response for a violation and should consider:
 - 1. The severity of the incident;
 - 2. The student’s previous violations, if any, and/or consequences for the same or related offenses;
 - 3. Whether the offense interfered with the rights, privileges or property of others;
 - 4. Whether the offense posed a threat to the health and safety of others;
 - 5. Whether the student has a disability and the disability’s possible impact on the student’s behavior;
 - 6. The relationship between the offense and the consequence; and
 - 7. Whether the disciplinary response is age-appropriate.
- F. Students who violate Policy 5550 will be subject to a disciplinary response up to and including expulsion.

- G. The school principal or designated person in charge shall be the only person(s) to use suspension as a disciplinary response for a violation of Policy 5550.

IV. Intervention Guidelines

A. **Category I Offenses**

Disruptive acts of misconduct that interfere with the orderly conduct of the activities, administration or classes of a school; a school-sponsored activity; or while being transported to and from school or school-sponsored activities. Below is a suggested list, not all inclusive, of interventions, supports and disciplinary responses that may be used when students commit **Category I** offenses.

1. **Category I – Interventions and Supports**

- a. Use proximity control to keep student on task.
- b. Pre-correct individual student behavior.
- c. Use nonverbal cues/signaling.
- d. Conduct in-class conference with student.
- e. Determine root causes and functions of student misbehavior and respond appropriately.
- f. Teach, practice and reinforce positive replacement behaviors.
- g. Provide special work assignment.
- h. Provide movement breaks between low-energy activities for individual student as deemed appropriate.
- i. Use think chair, time-out chair or reflection area in the classroom.
- j. Require the student to complete a written reflection/apology for misbehavior.
- k. Provide choices for learning activities and behavior.
- l. Use student behavior strategies, progress reports, behavior contracts and/or behavior point sheets.
- m. Use goal setting paired with acknowledgment of improved behavior for individual student.
- n. Assign a student buddy supporter.
- o. Recommend peer mediation support.
- p. Recommend conflict resolution support.
- q. Withhold student privilege(s).
- r. Contact student’s parent.
- s. Hold a parent and student conference.

- t. Assign detention (parent contact mandatory).
- u. Provide small group character-building and social skills training.
- v. Refer student to student support services staff for support.
- w. Give student a timeout with adult supervision.
- x. Refer student to student support team (SST).
- y. Develop and implement or review and revise student support plan for eligible student that includes interventions, supports or strategies designed to help the student to behave appropriately.
- z. Develop and implement, or review and revise, a 504 plan for eligible student, including behavioral accommodations as deemed necessary.
- aa. Conduct functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and, if student is eligible, develop a behavior intervention plan (BIP).
- bb. Review and revise a student’s existing BIP.
- cc. Refer eligible student to individual education program (IEP) team.
- dd. Develop and implement IEP for eligible student.
- ee. Include behavior interventions, supports or strategies as supplementary aides and services in the student’s IEP if deemed necessary.

2. **Category I – Possible Disciplinary Responses**

- a. Suspend student temporarily from bus transportation for bus-related offenses.
- b. Exclude the student from participating in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities (temporarily or permanently).
- c. Assign student to Saturday school.
- d. Assign student an in-school suspension.
- e. Suspend student from school when appropriate interventions or supports did not result in positive behavior changes by the student.
- f. Warn student and parent of **Category II** disciplinary action.

B. **Category II Offenses**

More serious acts of misconduct that interfere with the orderly conduct of activities, administration or classes of a school; a school-sponsored activity; or while being transported to and from school or at school-sponsored activities. Below is a suggested list, not all inclusive, of interventions, supports and disciplinary responses that may be used when students commit **Category II** offenses.

1. **Category II – Interventions and Supports**
 - a. Use appropriate interventions and supports from **Category I**.
 - b. Contact parent (mandatory).
 - c. Hold a parent and student conference.
 - d. Require student to return property, pay for property, pay restitution for property damages or assign student to an approved supervised service to school.
 - e. Exclude the student from participating in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities (temporarily or permanently).
 - f. Review and revise the 504 plan for eligible student, including behavioral accommodations as deemed necessary to help improve student’s behavior.
 - g. Review and revise the behavior intervention plan for student as deemed necessary to help improve student’s behavior.
 - h. Review and revise the student’s IEP as deemed necessary to help improve student’s behavior.
 - i. Offer student supervised campus clean-up as an alternative to suspension.
 - j. Use community partners and interagency partners to provide support and resources to student to help improve behaviors.
 - k. Refer two or more students to the Conflict Resolution Center of Baltimore County for a community conference to resolve a conflict.
 - l. Refer student to pupil personnel worker for support in changing behavior.
 - m. Refer student to superintendent’s designee for a program review.
 - n. Warn student of **Category III** disciplinary action.
2. **Category II – Possible Disciplinary Responses**
 - a. Exclude the student from participating in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities (temporarily or permanently).
 - b. Assign student to an in-school suspension.
 - c. Suspend student temporarily from bus transportation for bus-related offenses.
 - d. Suspend student to pupil personnel worker (PPW).
 - e. Suspend student from school.
 - f. Suspend student to the superintendent’s designee with the recommendation for reassignment to an alternative program when deemed appropriate by the school administrator.

C. **Category III Offenses**

The most serious acts of misconduct. Students who commit these offenses may be suspended from school and/or to the superintendent’s designee with the recommendation for reassignment to an alternative program or expulsion and transfer to an alternative program. Major acts of misconduct must be reported to the school administrator immediately after the incident and may result in the immediate removal of a student from the school. Below is a suggested list, not all inclusive, of interventions, supports and disciplinary responses that the school administrator may use when students commit **Category III** offenses.

1. **Category III – Interventions and Supports**
 - a. Use appropriate interventions from **Categories I and II**.
 - b. Contact parent (mandatory).
 - c. Hold required parent and student conference.
 - d. Contact police if a clear violation of the law is committed that is not ordinarily handled by the school administrator.
 - e. When returning to home school from an alternative program assignment, in cooperation with the alternative program staff, develop and implement the student’s transition plan.
2. **Category III – Possible Disciplinary Responses**
 - a. Exclude student from participating in extracurricular/co-curricular programs or activities (temporarily or permanently).
 - b. Suspend student from school.
 - c. Suspend student to the superintendent’s designee with the recommendation for reassignment to an alternative program or expulsion and transfer to an alterative program.
 - d. Refer student to an appropriate Baltimore County agency (mandatory for arson and criminal activities).
 - e. Require student to complete mandatory substance abuse program for drug, alcohol and/or tobacco violations.

V. Compliance

- A. Students are responsible for complying with established school procedures and exhibiting the expected student behaviors outlined in the *Student Handbook*.
- B. School administrators and the superintendent’s designee are responsible for determining appropriate interventions and supports, if any, and the disciplinary response based on the category of offense.

- C. School administrators are responsible for ensuring that disciplinary records are maintained in accordance with Board policies, Superintendent's rules and established procedures.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §7151, *Gun-Free Schools Act*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Law Article §3-805, *Misuse of Electronic Mail*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-305, *Suspension and Expulsion*.
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-424.1, *Model Policy Prohibiting Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation*.
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-424.2, *Gang Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression Efforts*.
COMAR 13A.01.04.03, *School Safety*
COMAR 13A.02.04, *Tobacco-free Environment*
COMAR 13A.08.01.04, *Unlawful Absence*
COMAR 13A.08.01.08, *Substance Use or Distribution*
COMAR 13A.08.01.11, *Disciplinary Action*
COMAR 13A.08.01.12, *Arrests on School Premises*
COMAR 13A.08.01.12-1, *Bringing or Possessing a Firearm on School Property*
COMAR 13A.08.01.15, *Reporting Delinquent Acts*
COMAR 13A.08.01.17, *School Use of Reportable Offenses*
COMAR 13A.08.01.21, *Reducing and Eliminating Disproportionate/Discrepant Impact*
COMAR 13A.08.04, *Student Behavior Interventions*
Baltimore County Code, Miscellaneous Provisions and Offenses Article §17-1-118, *Spice*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 5000, *Students*
Board of Education Policy 5120, *Attendance and Excuses*
Board of Education Policy 5330, *Social Events*
Board of Education Policy 5500, *Code of Student Conduct*
Board of Education Policy 5510, *Positive Behavior*
Board of Education Policy 5520, *Student Dress Code*
Board of Education Policy 5530, *Student Use and Possession of Tobacco*

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- Board of Education Policy 5540, *Alcoholic Beverages, Controlled Substances, Intoxicants, Prescription and Nonprescription Drugs*
- Board of Education Policy 5550, *Disruptive Behavior*
- Board of Education Policy 5551, *Gang Activity and Similar Destructive or Illegal Behavior*
- Board of Education Policy 5560, *Suspensions, Assignment to Alternative Programs or 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 5610, *School-Sponsored Publications and Productions*
- Board of Education Policy 6202, *Technology Acceptable Use Policy (TAUP) for Students*
- Board of Education Policy 6702, *Extracurricular Activities*
- Board of Education Policy 6800, *Field Trips and Foreign Travel*

Related Rule: Superintendent's Rule 6801, *Cultural Exchange*

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