

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 6, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 6163.1: INSTRUCTION, INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES, SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

ORIGINATOR: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Acting Assistant Superintendent, STEM
Della Curtis, Coordinator, Library Information Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education considers the proposed changes to Policy 6163.1. This is the first reading of this policy.

Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Proposed Policy 6163.1

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed Changes to the
Policy 6163.1 School Libraries (renumbered as 6163)

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy

This policy and rule were last revised in 1968. Since that time significant library media program and technology changes have occurred. The proposed revision reflects current library media program standards, expectations, and support to the educational community. In addition, it clearly defines the instructional support to teachers.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

There is no fiscal impact on the school system.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

6161P Equipment, Books, and Materials
6161.2P Equipment and Supplies
6163.2 P Selection of Instructional Materials - Philosophy

Legal Requirement

COMAR

[13A.05.04.01](#) Public School Library Programs. A. Each local school system shall establish in each school a unified school library media program for the use of all students which shall include, but not be limited to: 1) An organized and centrally managed collection of instructional materials and technologies; 2) Instruction emphasizing information literacy skills integrated into all content areas; 3) Appropriate materials and technologies to support the instructional program.

[13A.12.03.03](#) Library Media Specialist. A. Definitions 1) In this regulation, the following terms have the meanings indicated. 2) Terms Defined. a) "Library media specialist" means an individual who has developed knowledge, understanding of, and competency in the broad range of library media services, with particular emphasis on those competencies related to the development and administration of a comprehensive school library media program.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

Montgomery County Public Schools Regulation [EDA-RA School Library Media Center](#) adopted a similar comprehensive policy and rule that is proposed by BCPS. The regulation specifies components of a quality library media program, services, facilities, and staffing. The Harford County Public Schools' [Policy 06-0022-00 School Libraries](#) specifies that all schools shall have library media centers.

Draft of Proposed Policies – (see attached)

Other Alternatives Considered By Staff

Timeline:

First Reading – May 6, 2008

Public Comment – May 20, 2008

Third Reading – June 10, 2008

INSTRUCTION: INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

School Libraries

The Board of Education OF BALTIMORE COUNTY (BOARD) recognizes that [an effective school library is] SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS PROVIDE STUDENTS AND STAFF EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE PRINT AND DIGITAL RESOURCES CRITICAL TO SUPPORTING 21ST CENTURY TEACHING AND LEARNING. THE BOARD FURTHER RECOGNIZES THAT STATE CERTIFIED LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS ARE CRITICAL PARTNERS WITH TEACHERS IN INTEGRATING INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY LITERACY SKILLS WITH ALL CURRICULA BY COLLABORATING AND CO-TEACHING TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ALL STUDENTS. [an important and integral part of the instructional resources of each elementary and secondary school.]

Hence, the schools shall provide and maintain adequate school libraries. The Superintendent [of Schools] shall develop rules, regulations and procedures to insure the quality of content in these libraries and their systematic maintenance as current resources for teachers, STUDENTS, AND THEIR FAMILIES [and pupils]. [He] THE SUPERINTENDENT shall annually request sufficient funds AND ENSURE SUFFICIENT STAFFING to maintain these services [at a high level], using the standards of the American Library Association AND THE MARYLAND SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM STANDARDS as [a] guideS.

Legal References:

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)

- 13A.05.04.01 Public School Library Programs
- 13A.12.03.03 Library Media Specialist

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 11/21/68

REVISED: _____