

Introduction to Board Policy Manual

The purpose of the Board Policy Manual is to set forth the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County in compliance with the Board's statutory mandate that it determine, with the advice of the Superintendent of Schools (Superintendent), the educational policies of the Harford County Public School (HCPS) system subject to the applicable bylaws, rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education. The Manual includes policies which are either required by federal and state law or regulation or are, in the Board's judgment, necessary and appropriate in order for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate and effective manner.

The purpose of the policies contained in the Manual is to establish direction, goals and criteria which will allow the HCPS system to provide superior instruction and service to its students and stakeholders. In the event a matter or topic is not specifically addressed by a policy set forth herein, the Board and the Superintendent reserve the right to administer, direct and control the operation of the public school system in all matters under their jurisdiction in the absence of such policy.

In drafting Board policy, the Board has utilized language which is understandable and straightforward. Where appropriate, the Board has included subsections which set forth definitions or statements of purpose in order to make the policy clear and effective. The Board has refrained from use of legal terminology except where necessary in order to make the policy statement clear and effective.

The Board Policy Manual is reviewed and revised on a regular basis. Additionally, new policies are added to the Manual when required or appropriate. New and revised policies approved by the Board are inserted in the Policy Manual on a periodic basis.

The Board, in drafting policies, has refrained from restating provisions of federal or state law or regulation unless the Board was required to do so. Readers should be aware that there are a substantial number of federal and state laws and regulations which govern the manner in which HCPS provides instruction to students, provides other services which support instruction or otherwise conducts its operations. The majority, but not all, of federal law pertaining to education is found at Title 20 of the United States Code. The majority, but not all, of state law pertaining to education is found at the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. The majority, but not all, of federal regulation pertaining to education is found at Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The majority, but not all, of state regulation pertaining to education is found at Title 13A of the Code of Maryland Administrative Regulations.

Links for the above federal and state law and regulations are as follows.

[Title 20 of the United States Code \(USC\)](#)

[Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)

[Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code](#)

[Title 13A of Code of Maryland Regulations \(COMAR\)](#)

Questions regarding the Board Policy Manual should be forwarded to the Board of Education, 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, Attn: Manager of Communications.