

POLICY TITLE: Student Elopement		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: August 18, 2025	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: September 28, 2026	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Students		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the position and criteria of the Board of Education of Harford County (“the Board”) regarding how Harford County Public Schools (“HCPS”) will comply with Subtitle 11A of the Educational Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, titled “Student Elopement from School” (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-11A-01 et. seq.). This includes appropriate procedures for responding to, documenting, and notifying parents/guardians in the event of a student elopement.

II. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. Elopement – The act of a student leaving the school campus without permission of a school staff member.
- B. School Campus – The building and grounds of a school including a playground.
- C. Wandering - The act of a student leaving a classroom or area on the school campus, but not leaving the school campus, without permission of a school staff member.
- D. Notify – A prompt, documented attempt to directly inform a student’s parent or legal guardian of the elopement incident through at least one reliable method of communication using contact information on file with the school.

III. Procedures

A. General

- 1. School staff are required to notify parents/guardians on the same day an attempted and/or successful elopement incident occurs. If the school was not immediately aware of the elopement-related incident, staff must notify the parent/guardian on the same day the school becomes aware of the incident.

POLICY

Harford County Public Schools

2. At least one time each year, a school or student's IEP team shall review and address with relevant stakeholders a student's wandering or elopement behavior in updating the student's IEP or behavior intervention plan.
3. School staff shall utilize the tracking system provided by the school system to document each attempted or accomplished elopement.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dyann R. Mack, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dyann R. Mack, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

POLICY

Harford County Public Schools

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION		DATE		ACTION	
Adopted		08/18/2025			
Amended		09/28/2026			

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References	
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Lauren Driver	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: General Counsel
PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Tammy Bosley	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services
DESIGNEE NAME:	JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE:

LEGAL REFERENCES¹

References are set forth in the Policy.

¹ All references are to specific federal or Maryland statutes or regulations. References are provided for convenience and informational purposes only and are not to be considered as exhaustive or as precluding Harford County Public Schools from relying upon any other statutes or regulations in support of a policy or procedure.