

POLICY TITLE: Student Elopement		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/18/2025	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED:	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. Student – Any student who does not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) that includes measures for responding to an incident of elopement behavior.
- C. School Campus – The building and grounds of a school including a playground.
- D. 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.
- E. 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 mandated to notify parents/guardians within 24 hours of the school becoming aware of the elopement incident each time a

student attempts or accomplishes an elopement from school campus.

2. School staff shall utilize the tracking system provided by the school system to document each attempted or accomplished elopement.
3. The Board will be provided with an annual report of all elopements, and the professional development designed to address elopement behavior in a given school year, by August 1.
4. The Board will supply the Maryland State Department of Education (“MSDE”) with an annual report of all elopements, and the professional development designed to address elopement behavior in a given school year, by October 1.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:



Sean W. Bulson, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION		DATE		ACTION	
Adopted		8/18/2025			

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References	
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Bernard Hennigan	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services
PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE:
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.