

## **Highlights of Changes to Policies and Implementation Procedures: 2021–2022 School Year**

### **Policy 1020 Sexual Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct**

Effective: February 10, 2022

On February 10, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 1020 Sexual Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct. The modification was to align the policy with new Policy 1025 Title IX Sexual Harassment developed in accordance with the U.S. Department of Education regulations, known as “The Final Rule,” 34 CFR 106.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 23 on March 3, 2022.

### **Policy 1025 Title IX Sexual Harassment (new)**

Effective: February 10, 2022

On February 10, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted new Policy 1025 Title IX Sexual Harassment. The purpose of the new policy is to address sexual harassment as defined under Title IX that occurs within the educational programs and activities of the HCPSS, and to provide a grievance process for investigating and reaching a final determination of responsibility for a formal complaint of Title IX Sexual Harassment.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 23 on March 3, 2022.

### **Policy 1050 Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Free Environment**

(Formerly: Tobacco Free Environment)

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 1050 Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Free Environment on May 12, 2022. The policy was augmented as a foundational policy that targets all in the school system. Verbiage from Policy 9230 Alcohol, Other Drugs, Prescription Medication, and Over the Counter Products was incorporated into revised Policy 1050 to help students focus on health prevention concepts and to practice life skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Revisions to the implementation procedures include streamlining consequences for students and restructuring guidelines for intervention and support adding a new Student Well-Being, Support, and Intervention section.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

### **Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation**

(Formerly: Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation)

Effective: March 10, 2022

On March 10, 2022, the Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 1060 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, and Intimidation. The policy was modified to align with Maryland's Model Policy to Address Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation in accordance with Section 7-424.1 of the Education Article in the Annotated Code of Maryland.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 27 on April 7, 2022.

### **Policy 2010 Student Representation**

Effective: January 13, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 2010 Student Representation on January 13, 2022. Revisions to the policy include the Student Member of the Board of Education will be elected by receiving the most votes cast by student voters systemwide under the oversight of HCASC; updates the process if the candidate elected to Student Member of the Board of Education is unable to complete the term; and includes that Student Representatives should maintain an active role in HCASC and share student ideas, concerns, and feedback received from their school's student body on Board matters at monthly HCASC general assembly meetings and with the Student Member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent/designee.

Revisions to the implementation procedures include updating requirements for eligibility for the Student Member of the Board and the application timeline; new campaign expectations and candidate preparedness; updates to the election procedures; and new expectations for school-based administrators at secondary schools.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 23 on March 3, 2022.

### **Policy 3030 Research in the Howard County School System**

(Formerly: Research Involving Employees and Students)

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 3030 Research in the Howard County School System on December 7, 2021. Revisions to the policy include HCPSS will not approve or support research proposals from non-HCPSS prekindergarten through grade 12 students; action research and research conducted by HCPSS students as part of a class taught by an HCPSS teacher is not subject to the approval process by the Superintendent/designee; all researchers will obtain written informed consent and minor assent as appropriate and in compliance with FERPA and PPRA; and considerations for rejection or termination of research.

Revisions to the implementation procedures include updating provisions for screening, review, timeline, and reporting of external research requests; updating the approval process, timeline, and reporting of requests to disseminate information obtained from action research; and adding

components for data governance of approved requests, violations of policy, and training of HCPSS employees.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

### **Policy 3040 Technology Security**

Effective: May 12, 2022

On May 12, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 3040 Technology Security. The policy was modified to provide general technology updates and best practices.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 37 on June 14, 2022.

### **Policy 3050 Records Management**

Effective: November 2, 2021

On November 2, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education was provided modifications to the implementation procedures. The modifications include language to reflect the availability of HCPSS records that do not require a request under the MPIA and the intent that school system officials direct the public to these available records immediately to be proactive in the agency's disclosure.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 18 on November 19, 2021.

### **Policy 4050 Procurement of Goods and/or Services**

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 4050 Procurement of Goods and/or Services on June 9, 2022. Revisions to the policy include reorganizing the standards, outlining procurement requirements, detailing Purchasing Office requirements, and including other regulatory considerations for procurement and contracts.

Revisions to the implementation procedures include updating criteria for determining appropriate procurement methods.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

### **Policy 4060 Medical Reimbursement for Health-Related Services**

Effective: June 9, 2022

On June 9, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 4060 Medicaid Reimbursement for Health-Related Services. Modifications were made to update language within the policy and align with best practices and compliance requirements.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 37 on June 14, 2022.

**Policy 4070 Fund Balance**

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 4070 Fund Balance on March 10, 2022. The policy revision reorganized the Standards into three categories: Classification and Reporting of Fund Balance; Fund Deficits; and General Fund Balance for better readability.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

**Policy 4100 Investment**

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 4100 Investment on January 13, 2022. Revisions to the policy were minor and were made to align with current policy formatting.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

**Policy 5200 Student Transportation**

Effective: May 26, 2022

On May 26, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 5200 Student Transportation. The policy was modified to align with changes and updates to new school start times. Modifications to the policy include changes in distance for eligibility for transportation and that every eligible student must submit a request for assignment fore they will be provided with transportation services. The rolling implementation of changes to this policy begins with an opt-in initiative, along with distance change, for Pre-K students only, beginning with requests for transportation in Summer 2022 that take effect in school year 2022-2023. All other changes to this policy for the opt-in initiative, along with distance change, for grades K-12, will begin with requests for transportation in school year 2022-2023 that take effect in school year 2023-2024.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 37 on June 14, 2022.

**Policy 6010 School Attendance Areas**

Effective: February 2, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 6010 School Attendance Areas on December 16, 2021. Revisions to the policy include updating the process the Board of Education will follow to adopt the Board’s final Attendance Area Adjustment Plan per Education Article Section 4-109-1. The Board also must comply with reporting requirements for Education Article Section 4-140. Additional revisions include revising the term Target Utilization now defined as capacity utilization of permanent school facilities between 90 – 100% when feasible.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021-2022, Circular No. 22 on February 2, 2022.

Secondly, on February 10, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to the policy. The purpose of the modification was to align language in the policy to the language in Education Article Section 4-140.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 23 on March 3, 2022.

### **Policy 6020 School Planning/School Construction Programs**

Effective: February 10, 2022

On February 10, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to the Policy 6020 School Planning/School Construction Programs. The purpose of the modification is to align the policy with newly revised Policy 6010 School Attendance Areas.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 23 on March 3, 2022.

### **Policy 6060 Community Improvements to School Sites or School Facilities**

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 6060 Community Improvements to School Sites or School Facilities on June 9, 2022. Revisions to the policy include the process petitioner(s) must follow when submitting a proposal; all existing facilities and real property remain the property of the Board of Education; proposals with significant improvement to real property may be brought to the Board of Education for final approval; improvements to school system sites or facilities will be in accordance with Policy 4010 Donations.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

### **Policy 6080 Sustainability**

Effective: March 10, 2022

On March 10, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 6080 Sustainability. The policy was modified in accordance with HB0630: Primary and Secondary Education – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study: Requiring each school district to adopt or update a school district energy policy beginning July 1, 2022; specifying the contents of a school district energy policy; encouraging school districts to set targets to increase the school district's use of renewable energy and reduce the school district's greenhouse gas emissions; and requiring that a school district energy policy be posted on the school district's website and updated every 3 years.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 27 on April 7, 2022.

### **Policy 8010 Grading and Reporting: Prekindergarten through Grade 5**

Effective: September 2, 2021

On September 2, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 8010 Grading and Reporting: Prekindergarten through Grade 5. The purpose of this modification is to align report card grades and/or code changes with the current requirements of Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR). The modification also clarifies current practices by removing the process of issuing interims, adding the expectation that teachers will notify parents of progress throughout the marking period, and clarifying IEP team requirements related to student retention.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021-2022, Circular No. 18 on November 19, 2021.

### **Policy 8020 Grading and Reporting: Middle and High School**

Effective: December 16, 2021

On December 16, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 8020 Grading and Reporting: Middle and High School. The purpose of these modifications is, for SY21-22 only, to revise the final course grade to 5% for midterms and 5% for final examinations.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021-2022, Circular No. 22 on February 2, 2022.

### **Policy 8030 Graduation Requirements**

Effective: August 12, 2021

On August 12, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 8030 Graduation Requirements. The policy was modified to include an increase in the number of credits required for graduation from 21-22 SY beginning with the ninth-grade class of 2021-2022 to align with recent changes to COMAR.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 7 on August 30, 2021.

### **Policy 8100 Field Trips**

Effective: December 7, 2021

On December 7, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 8100 Field Trips. The policy was modified to allow JROTC instructors to accompany students on field trips. The definition of Teacher-in-Charge was modified to include Department of Defense (DoD) Certified JROTC Instructors.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 22 on February 2, 2022.

### **Policy 8120 Testing: State and Local Responsibilities and Protocols**

Effective February 10, 2022

On February 10, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 8120 Testing: State and Local Responsibilities and Protocols. The policy was modified to update language and align with best practices and compliance requirements for the use of electronic devices during assessments.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 23 on March 3, 2022.

### **Policy 8200 Digital Education**

Effective: July 15, 2021

On July 15, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 8200 Digital Education. The policy and implementation procedures were modified to add definitions and standards related to full-time digital education supporting the Digital Education Center adopted by the Board.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021-2022, Circular No. 7 on August 30, 2021.

### **Policy 9000 Student Residency, Eligibility, Enrollment and Assignment**

Effective: August 12, 2021

On August 12, 2021, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 9000 Student Residency, Eligibility, Enrollment and Assignment. The policy was modified to include language that students placed in a school, center, or virtual program that does not offer extracurricular activities or interscholastic athletics, will be eligible to participate at their designated school unless otherwise determined by the Superintendent/designee.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021-2022, Circular No. 7 on August 30, 2021.

### **Policy 9020 Students' Rights and Responsibilities**

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 9020 Students' Rights and Responsibilities on May 12, 2022. Revisions include adding the McKinney-Vento Act; students have the right to assemble and freely choose the subject and form of a peaceful demonstration; students have a right to display symbolic forms of expression as long as the display does not demean an identifiable person or group; and updates guidelines for searching a student.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

## **Policy 9090 Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical Activity**

Effective: January 13, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 9090 Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical Education on January 13, 2022. Revisions to the policy include all foods sold outside the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards; the HCPSS will implement a comprehensive health education program which includes nutrition education as part of the instruction program in accordance with COMAR 13A.04.18; and no physical segregation of or other discrimination against any child eligible for a free or a reduced price lunch will be made by the school nor will there be any overt identification of any child by special tokens or tickets, announced, or published lists of names, or by other means.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 22 on February 2, 2022.

Secondly, on April 7, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 9090 Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical Activity. The policy was modified to incorporate a few technical revisions based on an Administrative Review by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 37 on June 14, 2022.

## **Policy 9100 Educational Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Students**

Effective: April 7, 2022

On April 7, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to Policy 9100 Educational Programs for Pregnant and Parenting Students. The policy was modified to align with the Maryland’s Model Policy to protect the Title IX rights of pregnant and parenting students, in accordance with the provisions of Section §4-139 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2021–2022, Circular No. 37 on June 14, 2022.

## **Policy 9260 Student Search and Seizure**

Effective: July 1, 2022

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to Policy 9260 Student Search and Seizure on May 12, 2022. Revisions include the search of a student must be reasonable both at its inception and in its scope and in the presence of an HCPSS employee, parent, or SRO; an Authorized Searcher must have reasonable belief that a student has in their possessions an item which is a criminal offense under the laws of Maryland; should a student refuse to allow their personal technology device to be searched after parental permission is received, it will be in violation of the HCPSS Student Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action; the personal technology device will be confiscated while awaiting contact with the parent and held in the event the student refuses the search; and prior to conducting a search of a student or a



student's possession, the principal or principal's designee will attempt to contact the student's parent prior to the start of the search by an Authorized Searcher.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

**Policy 9230 Alcohol, Other Drugs, Prescription Medication and Over the Counter Products**  
Effective: July 1, 2022

On May 12, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education rescinded Policy 9230. Language from the rescinded policy has been incorporated into Policy 1050 Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Free Environment.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2022–2023, Circular No. 3 on July 5, 2022.

*\*This end-of-year highlights document does not include policies that were temporarily modified during the 2021-2022 school year to support COVID recovery needs.*