

Highlights of Changes to Policies and Implementation Procedures: 2015–2016 School Year

Policy 2040 Public Participation in Meetings of the Board

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy on March 10, 2016. Revisions provide protocols for public registration for speaking and participating in public forum and public hearing. These revisions also specify that testimony documents and comment documents are part of the public record maintained by the Board Office.

Policy 3040 Technology Security

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on June 9, 2016. The revisions to the policy incorporate accountability, data, configuration management, and data security in to the purpose of this policy. The revisions specify the Superintendent/Designee will review and approve methods for transmitting and storing student education records, personnel records, or confidential data electronically and will inform technology users of this policy at least annually.

The revised implementation procedures require that open wireless networks will be configured to notify users of network monitoring capabilities and the provisions of Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media.

Policy 4090 Debt Management

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on February 11, 2016. The revised policy statement specifies that the debt policy formalizes the Board’s commitment to full and timely repayment of debt and the “entity” is the Howard County Public School System. Definitions were added for Capital Lease and Lease Financing; definitions for Lease Obligation and Self-liquidating Debt were updated. The revision includes goods and/or services will secure debt repayment by the Board appropriation of the budget and specifies all tax-exempt debt will comply with the United States Internal Revenue Service regulations.

The revised implementation procedures replaces “Director of Finance” with “Superintendent/Designee” for consistency with policy. The revisions clarify procedures for management of lease obligations.

Policy 6080 Sustainability

Effective: September 3, 2015

The Howard County Board of Education was provided modified implementation procedures on September 3, 2015. These modified implementation procedures specify HCPSS will regularly evaluate all facilities and a walk-through of facilities will be included as part of this evaluation. Stakeholders who may be included in the walk-through are listed.

The implementation procedures were issued in a Circular Series 2015–2016, Circular No. 23 on October 9, 2015.

Policy 8020 Grading and Reporting: High School

Effective: April 14, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to the policy on April 14, 2016. The modification removes language regarding credit for high school courses taken in middle school. The modification can be found in section IV.A.4, Grades and Codes. Language regarding middle school courses taken in high school is specified in Policy 8030 Graduation Requirements.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2015–2016, Circular No. 47 on April 28, 2016.

Policy 8030 Graduation Requirements

Effective: November 5, 2015

The Howard County Board of Education was provided modified implementation procedures on November 5, 2015. These modified implementation procedures specify that the last group of students eligible for the Howard County Public School System Certificate of Merit Diploma is the graduating class of school year 2018–2019.

The implementation procedures were issued in a Circular Series 2015–2016, Circular No. 32 on November 13, 2015.

Secondly, on May 12, 2016, the Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to both the policy and implementation procedures. The revisions update state assessment requirements and graduation requirements.

The revised policy adopted on May 12, 2016, is effective July 1, 2016.

Policy 8080 Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on June 9, 2016. The revisions incorporate the use of “digital tools” throughout the policy and implementation procedures. The revisions also require digital tools and social media used with students for HCPSS-sanctioned activities be authorized before use. Additionally, staff will provide ongoing instruction to students regarding digital citizenship.

The revised implementation procedures changes “personal technology devices” to “personally-owned devices” and adds that individuals using digital tools and social media for HCPSS-sanctioned activities will use the most restrictive privacy settings. The revisions also clarify that employees will use an HCPSS communication system when communicating with parents and students.

Policy 9030 School-Sponsored Publications and Productions

(Formerly Student Publications and Productions)

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on March 10, 2016. The revisions include a change of the policy title from “Student Publications and Productions” to “School-Sponsored Publications and Productions.” The revisions specify how publications and communications are disseminated and approved.

Policy 9060 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Compliance: Section 504

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on April 14, 2016. The revisions specify students may be eligible for accommodations and reasonable modifications under Section 504, only if their physical or mental impairment substantially limits one or more major life activities. The revisions update language regarding parent and students rights.

The revised implementation procedures clarify when a students’ eligibility will be determined from a variety of sources and when reevaluation and review of a 504 will take place.

Policy 9090 Wellness Through Nutrition and Physical Activity

Effective: September 17, 2015

The Howard County Board of Education was provided modified policy and implementation procedures on September 17, 2015. To align the policy with the modified implementation procedures, section IV.D.3.b of the policy has been modified.

The modified implementation procedures clarify that school meals will meet National School Lunch Program standards and specify that a special celebration serving food and/or beverage may be permitted 12 times a school year, one of which may be an annual celebration allowed without time constraint.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2015–2016, Revised Circular No. 24 on November 2, 2015.

Policy 9250 Weapons

Effective: June 9, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted modifications to the policy on June 9, 2016. The modified policy includes language to allow an armored car service, hired by the Board, to possess a weapon on school property.

The policy was issued in a Circular Series 2015–2016, Circular No. 51 on June 10, 2016.

Policy 10010 Distribution and Display of Materials and Announcements

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on March 10, 2016. The revisions clarify how students and community organizations may distribute information and materials electronically or in hard copy through the designated HCPSS channels.

Policy 10020 Use of School Facilities

Effective: September 3, 2015

The Howard County Board of Education was provided modified implementation procedures on September 3, 2015. These modified implementation procedures include language to clarify the prioritization of local geographical area use of facilities and reporting of non-use of facilities.

The implementation procedures were issued in a Circular Series 2015–2016, Circular No. 23 on October 9, 2015.

Policy 10040 Charter Schools

Effective: July 1, 2016

The Howard County Board of Education adopted revisions to the policy and implementation procedures on April 14, 2016. The revisions specify that the Board of Education of Howard County is the only entity authorized to grant charters for public charter schools in Howard County and aligns the policy with state law.

The revised implementation procedures were restructured to guide charter school applicants and organizers through the various processes.

The Board of Education approved adding a “Reviewed” date of July 1, 2016, to the following policies:

Policy 7080 Transfer of School-Based Administrators

Policy 7090 Transfer of Teachers