

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: March 11, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

FROM: Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON CHANGES TO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4006 – PERSONNEL – GENERAL -TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES, AND NETWORKS**

ORIGINATOR: J. Robert Haines, Esq., Deputy Superintendent

RESOURCE PERSON(S): Michael J. Goodhues, Chief Information Officer

RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with Superintendent’s Rule 8130, Policy 4006 is scheduled for review in school year 2008. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve revisions to Policy 4006 – PERSONNEL: General - Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks. This is the first reading of this revised policy.

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Attachment I – Policy Analysis
Attachment II – Policy 4006

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
Policy Analysis for Proposed Changes to the
Policy 4006 and Rule 4006 – Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information,
Services, and Networks

Statement of Issues Addressed by the Proposed Policy

This policy and rule were last revised in 2003. Due to the dynamic nature of technology and its opportunities it provides to our educational community, the proposed revision will ensure application of instructional, safety, and privacy issues as well as compliance with federal laws impacting telecommunications in the Baltimore County Public Schools. In addition, the recommended revision will allow for a protocol that will enable educators to more easily utilize 21st century technologies in teaching, learning, and communication.

Cost Analysis and Fiscal Impact on School System

There is no fiscal impact on the school system.

Relationship to Other Board of Education Policies

Related Board Policies and Rules:

- 1110 – Community Relations – Communication with the Public
- 4003 - Personnel: General – Sexual Harassment
- 4004 – Personnel: General - Suspected Child Abuse, Neglect, and/or Inappropriate Behavior Towards a Student by an Employee of the Baltimore County Public Schools
- 4005 – Personnel – General – Dating or Sexual Relations Between Staff and Students
- 4115 – Personnel – Professional – Responsibilities, Duties, and Code of Ethics
- 6163.2 – Instruction – Selection of Instructional Materials
- 6166 – Instruction – Telecommunications Access to Electronic, Services, and Networks
- 8363 – Ethics Code – Conflict of Interest
- 8365 – Ethics Code – Lobbying Disclosure

Legal Requirement

Each local school system must develop a written policy addressing acceptable use of telecommunications for Maryland Technology Plan as well as to qualify for the e-rate.

Similar Policies Adopted by Other Local School Systems

Telecommunications policies and regulations from Harford, Howard, Prince Georges, Carroll, Montgomery, and Anne Arundel counties were reviewed and analyzed.

Draft of Proposed Policies and rules – (see attached)

Other Alternatives Considered By Staff

No alternatives are appropriate due to the FCC regulation in order to take advantage of the e-rate discount.

PERSONNEL: General

Telecommunications Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

The Board of Education of Baltimore County (BOARD) recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies change the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes provide new opportunities and responsibilities for employees. The Board supports access by employees to information resources along with the development of appropriate skills to access, evaluate, and use these resources for assignments, projects, or job responsibilities.

For the purposes of this policy [and rule], employees shall be defined as any and all individuals employed by the Board [of Education of Baltimore County] in any position, including part-time and temporary assignments. As employees learn to use telecommunications technologies, it is expected that they will apply them in appropriate ways to the performance of tasks associated with their responsibilities and positions.

The Board [of Education] expects that employees will act in a considerate and responsible manner as specified in the Telecommunications Acceptable Use Policy for Employees form (Rule 4006, Form A) prior to using telecommunications in Baltimore County Public Schools.

The Board [of Education] authorizes the Superintendent to develop appropriate procedures for implementing this policy, to review and evaluate its effect on student achievement and employee productivity, and to develop appropriate discipline procedures.

[Also see Policies 1100 and 1110 – Community Relations, 5005, 4115 Personnel, 8363 Ethics Code.]

LEGAL REFERENCES: 47 U.S.C. §254(h) (Children’s Internet Protection Act)
18 U.S.C. §§2701-2711 (Electronic Communications Privacy Act)
20 U.S.C. §794d (Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
COMAR 13A.05.02.13H
COMAR 13A.05.04.01
COMAR 13A.08.01.11
COMAR 13A.08.01.14

RELATED POLICIES: BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1100
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 1110
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4008
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 4115
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY 8363

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 6/9/97

Revised: 3/11/03

REVISED: _____