

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

**DECISION ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES**

(POLICY NO. 06-0030-000)

November 9, 2009

Background Information:

The Board maintains a manual which sets forth the various policies of the Harford County Public Schools. The manual contains policies which are either required by federal and state law and regulation or which are, in the Board's judgment, necessary and appropriate in order for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate and effective manner.

Discussion:

The "Fitness and Athletic Equity for Students With Disabilities Act" enacted by the Maryland General Assembly at its 2008 session (codified at Section 7-4B-01 through 7-4B-06 of the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code) provides that each local board of education is required to establish a policy to ensure that students with disabilities have equitable opportunities in physical education and athletic programs. The above law provided that the State Board develop a model policy to assist county boards with implementation of the law. Materials relating to such a model policy were distributed to local boards during the 08-09 school year. The attached proposed policy is based on the law and related materials.

The attached draft policy has been reviewed and approved by Senior Staff as well as Ms. Virginia M. Popiolek, Supervisor of Elementary and Middle School Physical Education/Health – K-12.

The above proposed new policy was presented at the Board's meeting of September 29, 2009. No public comment was received regarding this policy.

Attachment:

1. Proposed new Physical Education and Athletic Programs for Students With Disabilities Policy 06-0030-000.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

For the foregoing reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the attached proposed new policy entitled Physical Education and Athletic Programs for Students With Disabilities.