

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

DECISION ON

BOARD POLICY 08-006-000 USE OF DRUG DETECTING DOGS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**MAY 27, 2014
AUGUST 18, 2014**

Background Information:

The Board maintains a manual which sets forth the various policies of the Harford County Public Schools ("HCPS"). 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. Included among such policies is that policy entitled Use of Drug Detecting Dogs in Secondary Schools.

Discussion:

The policy for the Use of Drug Detecting Dogs in Secondary Schools was established in May, 1998, and was revised in 2002.

It is recommended that the current Board of Education policy be abbreviated so that it is succinct and clear and that procedures be set forth in a separate procedural document as many aspects of current policy are operational.

The proposed procedures contain language which revises the current policy. The purpose of these revisions is to minimize embarrassment to students and reduce the time of the drug dog scans.

At the April 28, 2014, meeting of the Board Policy Review Committee, the committee approved advancing the revised policy and attached procedure to the Board. At the May 27, 2014, Board Business Meeting, the revised policy and attached procedure were presented to the board as a recommendation item.

The Board recommended a revision to the policy which clarified that drug detecting dogs included dogs owned or controlled by law enforcement agencies operating in Harford County in addition to the Harford County Sheriff's Office. This clarification has been added. The policy was posted to the HCPS website for public comment for at least 30 days prior to July 21, 2014. There were 9 public comments received.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

For the foregoing reasons, it is recommended that the Board approve the proposed revised policy entitled, *08-006-000 Use Of Drug Detecting Dogs In Secondary Schools*; and, the proposed Procedure entitled Use of Drug Detecting Dogs In Secondary Schools.

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| POLICY TITLE: Use of Drug Detecting Dogs in Secondary Schools | | |
| ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/11/1998 | MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 10/11/2004 | MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED: 4/22/2002 |
| POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Safety and Security | | |

~~The Board of Education of Harford County authorizes the use of drug detecting dogs in secondary schools. The following conditions will apply:~~

- ~~1. Prior to the use of drug detecting dogs in a school, the school administration will meet with canine officers to conduct a simulated scan of the school. Training will be provided to administrators on drug detection and recognition and on safety issues related to the use of drug detecting dogs.~~
- ~~2. School system publications that include student discipline policies of the Board of Education will also include a notice that drug detecting dogs will be used in secondary schools. Additionally, each secondary school shall use appropriate means to inform students, parents, and school staff of this policy. Notice is not required before each use of drug detecting dogs in a school.~~
- ~~3. At a minimum, once annually each secondary school will be scanned randomly. The Harford County Sheriff or designee and the Superintendent or designee will jointly develop a tentative schedule before the start of each school year.~~
- ~~4. Additional scans may be made at the request of the principal based on reasonable suspicion that drugs might be in the school. In addition, the Superintendent or designee must be notified prior to any scan.~~
- ~~5. Drug detecting dogs may be used anywhere on school property where it is unlikely that students or adults will come in contact with the dog. Drug detecting dogs will not be used during lunch, when assemblies are planned, or on other occasions when students or adults are likely to be in hallways or other public areas of the school.~~
- ~~6. Immediately prior to the commencement of the use of drug detecting dogs in a school, the principal will take steps to ensure that students will remain in classrooms during the scan and that people entering the school remain away from the scan activity.~~
- ~~7. An administrative team will accompany the drug detecting dog and handler to assure safety and orderly operation of the school. Administrators will take necessary steps to minimize contact between dogs and students, staff, or others not involved in the scan.~~

- ~~8. In the event of a fire alarm, class change, or other event that causes students to be in hallways, the scan will immediately cease and the drug detecting dog will exit the building until students have returned to class.~~
- ~~9. Under no circumstances will a drug detecting dog be used to sniff any individual person.~~
- ~~10. Drug detecting dogs must be under the control of the handler at all times while on school property.~~
- ~~11. When a drug detecting dog alerts, in the opinion of the handler, to the presence of a controlled dangerous substance in the school building, the following will occur:
 - ~~a) At the conclusion of the search, the drug detecting dog will either exit the building or move to an area of the school away from and out of sight of the locker.~~
 - ~~b) The school administrator will ask the student, if present, to open the locker or other property so a search can be conducted by the administrator. The administrator will inform the student of the reason for this request.~~
 - ~~e) An attempt to contact the parent of the student will be made and documented.~~
 - ~~d) If the student refuses or is unavailable to open the locker or property, the school administrator will conduct a search of the locker or property and will inform the student of the results of the search.~~
 - ~~e) Students who are in possession of controlled dangerous substances and other items that constitute a violation of the policies of the Board of Education will be disciplined in accordance with the appropriate procedures.~~~~
- ~~12. When a drug detecting dog alerts, in the opinion of the handler, to the presence of a controlled dangerous substance in a vehicle on school property, the following will occur:
 - ~~a) A school administrator will determine, if possible, the ownership of the vehicle and will have the vehicle operator escorted to the vehicle.~~
 - ~~b) When the vehicle is searched by the police officer, a school administrator or designee will be present.~~
 - ~~e) Students who are in possession of controlled dangerous substances and other items that constitute a violation of the policies of the Board of Education will be disciplined in accordance with the appropriate procedures.~~
 - ~~d) The principal will be informed of the outcome of any search and investigation.~~~~

- ~~13. After the use of drug detecting dogs in a school, the Superintendent's designee will maintain a record of the results of the scan. Information will be provided only through the Office of the Superintendent and the appropriate law enforcement agency.~~
- ~~14. The use of drug detecting dogs in secondary schools will be evaluated annually, at a minimum, and evaluation results will be provided to the Board of Education. Evaluations will include:
 - ~~a) A comparison of the number of students disciplined for violation of the Board of Education policy on Student Possession, Use, or Transference of Controlled Dangerous Substances, Medicines, and Alcohol. The baseline year for comparison will be 1998-99.~~
 - ~~b) Surveys of students, staff, parents, and others, as appropriate.~~
 - ~~e) Joint assessment by school administrators and law enforcement officers of the procedures for the use of drug detecting dogs in secondary schools.~~~~
- ~~15. Only persons authorized by the principal or Superintendent or designee shall be present with the drug detecting dog and handler during a scan of a school.~~

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the Board of Education of Harford County authorization of the use of drug detecting dogs in secondary schools and direct the Superintendent to establish such procedures as are required to implement this policy.

II. Definition

A. **Drug Detection Dogs means** canines trained to detect the presence of drugs and which are owned or otherwise controlled by the Harford County Sheriff's Office or other law enforcement agencies operating in Harford County.

B. **Drug means** any controlled dangerous substance as defined under state or federal law.

III. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Harford County is committed to promoting and providing a drug-free academic environment for all students. **As one means of meeting this commitment, the Board of Education authorizes the use of drug detection dogs.** The Superintendent shall establish procedures to regulate the implementation of this policy.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Barbara P. Canavan, Superintendent

| Policy Action Dates | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|--------|------|--------|------|
| ACTION | DATE | ACTION | DATE | ACTION | DATE |
| Adopted | 5/11/1998 | | | | |
| Reaffirmed | 4/22/2002 | | | | |
| Amended | 10/11/2004 | | | | |
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| Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References | | |
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| LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Unknown | JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Unknown | |
| PERSON RESPONSIBLE: | JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: | |
| DESIGNEE NAME: N/A | JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE: N/A | |
| REFERENCE 1 TYPE: Legal | REFERENCE 1 NO. Section 7-308 | REFERENCE 1 DESCRIPTION: Annotated Code Education Article |
| REFERENCE 2 TYPE: Legal | REFERENCE 2 NO. 13A.08.01.14 | REFERENCE 2 DESCRIPTION: Code of Maryland Regulations |
| REFERENCE 3 TYPE: | REFERENCE 3 NO. | REFERENCE 3 DESCRIPTION: |
| REFERENCE 4 TYPE: | REFERENCE 4 NO. | REFERENCE 4 DESCRIPTION: |
| REFERENCE 5 TYPE: | REFERENCE 5 NO. | REFERENCE 5 DESCRIPTION: |
| POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005: School Administration - .02.08.032 | | |