

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION ON

PROPOSED BOARD POLICY

Student Elopement

August 18, 2025

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 for the school system to operate in a lawful, appropriate, and effective manner.

Discussion:

During the 2025 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill 1204 - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Student Elopement - Notice and Reporting Requirements (Ace's Law). This bill requires school systems to document student elopements, contact parents/guardians in the event of a student elopement, provide professional development to decrease elopements, and report to their Boards of Education and the state on the number of elopements and professional development conducted annually. Each school district in Maryland is required to develop a policy and accompanying procedures to be in compliance with this law by July 1, 2025.

The Board reviewed the proposed policy at the Board of Education meeting on June 23, 2025. No issues, concerns, or objections were raised at that time.

Attachments:

1. Student Elopement Policy

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

For these reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board approve the proposed Student Elopement Policy.

