

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATION ON
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY
02-0058-000 STUDENT ELOPEMENT**

July 20, 2026

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:

In August, 2025, the Board adopted a Student Elopement policy (the “Policy”), pursuant to law codified in the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code. *See* Md. Code Ann., Educ. Art. § 7-11a-01 *et seq.* This Policy sets forth the criteria of the Board of Education of Harford County regarding how Harford County Public Schools (“HCPS”) will comply with the law as it relates to providing notice to parents and guardians of their student’s attempted or accomplished elopements from school property.

Following an investigation on a related issue, the Maryland State Department of Education (“MSDE”) issued a Letter of Findings notifying HCPS that its Student Elopement policy was inconsistent with the requirements of the law. Accordingly, the Policy is now presented with proposed amendments to ensure compliance under the law and with the corrective actions required by MSDE.

In addition, because the existing Policy requires HCPS to provide the Board with an annual report on the elopement data from the prior school year no later than August 1, the elopement data from the 2025-2026 school year will also be shared with the Board.

Attachments:

1. Proposed, amended Board Policy 02-0058-000 entitled Student Elopements.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

For the foregoing reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Board review the proposed amended policy 02-0058-000 entitled Student Elopements for approval at a subsequent Board meeting.