

POLICY TITLE: Student Elopement		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/18/2025	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: August XX, 2026	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY:		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the position and criteria of the Board of Education of Harford County (“the Board”) regarding how Harford County Public Schools (“HCPS”) will comply with Subtitle 11A of the Educational Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, titled “Student Elopement from School” (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-11A-01 et. seq.). This includes appropriate procedures for responding to, documenting, and notifying parents/guardians in the event of a student elopement.

II. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions apply:

- A. Elopement – The act of a student leaving the school campus without permission of a school staff member.
- B. School Campus – The building and grounds of a school including a playground.
- C. Wandering - The act of a student leaving a classroom or area on the school campus, but not leaving the school campus, without permission of a school staff member.
- D. Notify – A prompt, documented attempt to directly inform a student’s parent or legal guardian of the elopement incident through at least one reliable method of communication using contact information on file with the school.

III. Procedures

A. General

- 1. School staff are required to notify parents/guardians on the same day an attempted and/or successful elopement incident occurs. If the school was not immediately aware of the elopement-related incident, staff must notify the parent/guardian on the same day the school becomes aware of the incident.

2. At least one time each year, a school or student's IEP team shall review and address with relevant stakeholders a student's wandering or elopement behavior in updating the student's IEP or behavior intervention plan.
3. School staff shall utilize the tracking system provided by the school system to document each attempted or accomplished elopement.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Dyann R. Mack, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE
Adopted	08/18/2025				
Amended	08/XX/2026				

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References	
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Bernard Hennigan	JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services
PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE:
DESIGNEE NAME:	JOB POSITION OF DESIGNEE:
POLICY NUMBER PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2005:	

LEGAL REFERENCES¹

References are set forth in the Policy.

¹ All references are to specific federal or Maryland statutes or regulations. References are provided for convenience and informational purposes only and are not to be considered as exhaustive or as precluding Harford County Public Schools from relying upon any other statutes or regulations in support of a policy or procedure.