



INSTRUCTION: Special Programs

Advanced Academics and Gifted Education

I. Policy Statement

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) is committed to ensuring equity and excellence in education by providing an instructional environment that recognizes and nurtures Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) students' potential and enhances their opportunities for academic success.
- B. The Board recognizes that students who have outstanding talent and who perform, or who show the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other students of a similar age, experience or environment in intellectual, creative, artistic or specific academic fields, are found in youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata and in all areas of human endeavor. The Board further recognizes that these students require appropriately differentiated programs and services beyond those normally provided by the regular school program.
- C. Advanced academics shall encompass all differentiated programs and services specially designed to accelerate, extend and/or enrich the regular school program for advanced, gifted and high potential learners.
- D. Advanced academics programs and services shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Accelerated, extended and/or enriched instructional content, strategies and products in elementary courses;
 - 2. Gifted and talented and advanced academics courses in Grades 6–12;
 - 3. International Baccalaureate courses;
 - 4. Advanced placement courses;
 - 5. Dual enrollment courses; and
 - 6. Grade or subject level acceleration.

II. Standards

- A. When performing or showing the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with other students of a similar age, experience or environment in intellectual, creative, artistic or specific academic fields, students shall not be denied access to advanced

academics programs and services based on their race, special education status, disability, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity (including gender expression), English learner (ELL) status and/or socioeconomic status.

- B. Students participating in advanced academics shall be provided a continuum of appropriately differentiated curriculum and instruction that shall accelerate, extend and/or enrich instructional content, strategies and student work products to demonstrate and apply learning.

III. Implementation

- A. The Superintendent shall:
 - 1. Establish a process to consider all students for identification and referral for participation in all advanced academics programs and services using multiple indicators of potential, aptitude and achievement;
 - 2. Implement consistently, evaluate periodically and revise as necessary BCPS identification procedures for advanced academics programs and services; and
 - 3. Implement accountability measures for monitoring and evaluating the administration, identification and instructional delivery of advanced academic services in all BCPS schools.
- B. The Superintendent shall annually report to the Board regarding the performance of advanced academics students in the BCPS Bridge to Excellence Master Plan as required by state law and regulation.
- C. Annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the Board disaggregated data for advanced academics students to include student achievement, attendance, suspension rate, graduation rate and standardized test scores.
- D. Teachers and other personnel assigned specifically to work with advanced academics students shall be provided with opportunities for professional development related to meeting the academic, social, emotional and developmental needs of advanced academics students.
- E. The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

POLICY 6401

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article § 5-401,
Comprehensive Master Plan Requirements
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §§ 8-201—204,
Gifted and Talented Children
COMAR 13A.04.07, *Gifted and Talented Education*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 0100, *Equity*
Board of Education Policy 5200, *Promotion and Retention*
Board of Education Policy 6000, *Curriculum and Instruction*

Policy Board of Education of Baltimore County
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