

BALTIMORE COUNTY STUDENT COUNCILS

PLATFORM

Plank I - Education

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Diversity in school curricula to allow for specified areas of study.
- B. A weighted grading system including the recognition of honors and gifted and talented courses on report cards, transcripts and course syllabi.
- C. The enforcement of academic eligibility requirements for participation in co-curricular activities.
- D. Programs that promote computer literacy and technological education in addition to and as a part of the development of fundamental elementary goals.
- E. Early intervention programs that enable all children to start school ready to learn.
- F. The encouragement of students towards voluntary involvement within the community.
- G. Secondary and primary magnet programs.
- H. The implementation of leadership training classes in all secondary and primary schools.
- I. A weight of no more than 12% for a final exam towards a final grade.
- J. Students not being penalized for excused absences from school for approved activities.
- K. Foreign language classes beginning in primary school.
- L. The necessary passing of all required standardized tests in order to graduate high school.
- M. Implementation of the AVID program in all secondary Baltimore County Public Schools.
- N. The use of portable electronic devices for educational purposes in all Baltimore County Public Schools.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Year round schooling.
- B. State legislators mandating curriculum.
- C. Any academic class greater than 30 students.
- D. In-school punishment for out-of-school behavior.
- E. A legal dropout age lower than 16.
- F. Discrimination and Segregation based on including but not limited to: special needs, disabilities, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, etc.

Plank II - Youth Representation

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Appointment of the elected student members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the Maryland State Board of Education.
- B. Designation of the student members to the Board of Education of Baltimore County and the Maryland State Board of Education as full voting members.
- C. Appointment of student representatives on private sector boards and commissions which deal with youth related issues at the local, county and state levels.
- D. Creation and/or continuation of student government programs in all elementary and secondary schools in Baltimore County under the guidance of a qualified faculty advisor.
- E. The appointment and fair compensation of advisors to support the empowerment and representation of students.

Plank III - Funding

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Full local, state and federal funding for programs mandated for implementation in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- B. Consistency of resources across the county.
- C. Proportionate funding to meet the needs for all areas of study.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

- A. Any voucher program that would use public money to fund private school education.
- B. Any proposal for the creation and implementation of a program that does not outline how it will be funded.

Plank IV - School Personnel

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. The availability of trained health professionals in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- B. Full staffing for the purpose of assisting students with special needs.
- C. The hiring and placement of guidance counselors and school nurses based upon school populations, not a countywide standard.
- D. The hiring of one additional qualified staff member per school to focus completely on substitute teaching.

Plank V - Building Maintenance and School Safety

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Increased funding for general renovations of schools.
- B. Adequate custodial staffing for all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- C. Healthy school environments for all students.
- D. Increased parking for faculty, staff and students at schools where needed.
- E. Implementation of methods to prevent school vandalism.
- F. School Resource Officers in all Baltimore County Public Schools
- G. Assigned police officers in school parking lots at the opening and closing of every school day.

Plank VI - Health and Student Safety

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Student organizations that use peer leadership in the prevention of all forms of bullying.
- B. Support services for the prevention and treatment of all forms of bullying in Baltimore County Public Schools
- C. Peer counseling programs in schools.
- D. The establishment of "wellness networks" in the community.
- E. Publicized resources for students in need of confidential support.
- F. Implementation of healthy food choices in Baltimore County Public Schools.
- G. Efforts to prevent youth suicide and self-harm

Plank VII - Substance Abuse

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Compliance with existing laws which prohibit alcohol consumption by persons under the age of 21 years and which prohibits the use of tobacco products by persons under the age of 18.
- B. Continued education in all Baltimore County Public Schools on the problems and dangers of different types of controlled and illegal substances focusing on the biological and social hazards and effects of their use.
- C. Continued support of "drug free schools" and the establishment of smoking cessation clinics to assist students and staff in all Baltimore County Public Schools.
- D. Full funding of state and local programs to eliminate substance abuse for faculty and students.
- E. The availability of wellness centers as a source of information and treatment for faculty and students.
- F. Student organizations and services for the prevention of substance abuse and all other destructive decisions in every secondary school in Baltimore County.
- G. A mandatory disciplinary action for students caught smoking, drinking, abusing a controlled substance or carrying any of the previously mentioned items while under the jurisdiction of the school system.

H. Distribution of information about the problems and dangers of substance abuse among students in every Baltimore County Public Schools secondary school.

I. Continued education regarding current drunk driving laws.

J. Extending the amount of time an underage driver's license would be suspended for driving under the influence.

The Baltimore County Student Councils opposes:

A. The searching and drug testing of students based on unsubstantiated rumors.

B. The use of non-medicinal drugs and substances.

C. Possession and/or use of tobacco products containing nicotine, and nicotine replacement products on school premises by students and faculty.

Plank VIII - Teenage Pregnancy, Family Planning and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

A. Distribution of factual information, the development of communication, and decision-making skills.

B. Full and effective implementation and support of required family life and human development courses.

C. Curriculum that teaches principles of safe sex and contraception for all sexual orientations.

D. Availability of condoms in Baltimore County secondary schools with appropriate support.

E. Employment of teachers who are qualified to teach family life and human development courses.

F. Continuation of STI prevention education in high school and an increased amount of STI prevention education at the middle school level.

H. Health courses providing adequate information about family planning, human development and general wellness as a Maryland state graduation requirement.

Plank IX - Environment

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. Continuation of environmentally sound schools.
- B. Energy conservation programs at the facility and instructed levels.
- C. The inclusion of environmental programs in Baltimore County Public Schools as options for summer programs, school clubs, internships, community center programs and student activities.
- D. Limiting the use of harmful chemicals on school properties where students learn, play or convene for any reason.
- E. The minimization of waste products within the schools and the maximization of reusing and recycling of used materials.
- F. The use of provided bus transportation to conserve energy and resources.
- G. The encouragement of carpooling for driving students as well as faculty and staff.
- H. A comprehensive Green Schools program in all Baltimore County Public Schools.

Plank X - Civic Responsibility

The Baltimore County Student Councils supports:

- A. The establishment of programs that encourage youth to participate in civic oriented activities.
- B. The distribution of voter registration forms in 12th grade.
- C. Efforts by student organizations to donate time and money to charitable causes.

***Revised
January 19, 2015***