POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: Policy 605.04
Responsible Office: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION/EQUITY AND HUMAN RELATIONS

ETHNIC AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

A. PURPOSE

To enhance all students' educational experiences and prepare them for life in a global society by valuing the perspective, influence, and contributions of all ethnic and cultural groups. To ensure ethnic and cultural education is embedded in students' social development, in school culture, curricula, instructional practices, and professional learning.

B. ISSUE

The Anne Arundel County Board of Education (Board) recognizes the need to build a school environment of inclusiveness that values the contributions, perspective, and influence of ethnic and cultural groups and its impact on students' dispositions, attitudes, and approaches to learning and as valued content to be taught in the formal curriculum. The Board recognizes the strength of the diversity of our students and workforce to enhance learning.

C. POSITION

1. The Board believes in a multicultural program that promotes understanding of the lifestyles and experiences of all ethnic and cultural groups, particularly, as they impact teaching and learning. It is the intent of the Board that the:

    a. school environment is conducive to demonstrating high expectations for all children regardless of differences in which students learn to value their own and others cultural heritage;

    b. school environments affirm diverse backgrounds, promote equity in access and achievement, and makes connections between students home and school experiences;

    c. instructional process incorporates multicultural content, resources, and materials, fundamental knowledge, practices, and dispositions characteristic of a pedagogy that is responsive and relative to all diverse learners in all the subjects and skills routinely taught in schools; and

d. general curriculum conveys the qualities, similarities, and differences of all people.

2. In accordance with Maryland laws and regulations, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) shall include in its program of studies, either as a part of current curricular offerings or as separate courses, appropriate instruction for developing understanding and appreciation of ethnic and cultural groups.

3. AACPS shall comply with Maryland State Department of Education's guidelines as they pertain to the development of curricular offerings and criteria for evaluating and selecting instructional materials that ensure proper recognition of ethnic and cultural groups.

D. IMPLEMENTATION

The Superintendent is authorized to develop curricula, promote positive classroom climates, student-teacher relationships, and expectations for all employees to address ethnic and cultural education that shall meet or exceed the requirements of Maryland laws and regulations.

Policy History: Adopted on 04/23 /14.

Note previous policy history: Policy 605.04, *Revised 01/17/90.*