

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Related Entries:** AC, JO, JO-RA

**Responsible Office:** OFFICE OF SCHOOL SECURITY

### VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM

#### A. PURPOSE

To prohibit serious threats and violent acts against students, staff, and other persons on any Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) property, in any Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) facilities, or at any Board or AACPS event, and to prohibit vandalism against any Board property.

#### B. ISSUE

Violence and vandalism in our school system will not be tolerated.

#### C. POSITION

1. In accordance with State law, it is a hate crime for a person to deface, damage, or destroy, attempt or threaten to deface, damage, or destroy, burn or attempt or threaten to burn an object on, or damage the real or personal property connected to a building that is publicly or privately owned, leased, or used, including a school:
  - a. Because a person or group of a particular race, color, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or national origin, or because a person or group that is homeless has contact or is associated with the building; or
  - b. If there is evidence that exhibits animosity against a person or group because of the race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or national origin of that person or group or because that person or group is homeless.
2. In accordance with State law, it is a hate crime for a person to place or inscribe an item or a symbol, including an actual or depicted noose or swastika, whether temporary or permanent, on any real or personal AACPS property with the intent to threaten or intimidate any person or group of persons.
3. Any person or organization, whether or not affiliated with AACPS, that engages in violence or vandalism on AACPS property may be charged with a crime and prosecuted in accordance with State law.

4. Any person or organization, whether or not affiliated with AACPS, that encourages students to participate in violence or vandalism in violation of AACPS policies and regulations may be charged with a crime and prosecuted in accordance with State law.
5. School officials, with the assistance of law enforcement agencies, shall take immediate and responsive action toward all persons engaging in crimes of violence and other serious property crimes, including vandalism. Anyone so apprehended may be prosecuted in accordance with State law.
6. The Board may offer a reward for information leading to identification, arrest, and conviction of any person who commits an act of violence or vandalism on school property.

**D. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

*Policy History:* Adopted 04/06/16; Revised 12/15/21

*Note Previous Policy History:* Replaces Policy 506, adopted 03/04/70 and revised 12/06/89

*Legal References:* Title 6 of the Criminal Law Article; Sections 10-301 through 10-308 of the Criminal Law Article; Section 26-101 of the Education Article