

# BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE



Tuesday, April 30, 2024  
3:00 p.m.  
Microsoft Teams

## AGENDA

### Committee Members

Melissa Ellis, Chair  
Dana Schallheim, Member  
Joanna Bache Tobin, Member  
Eric Lin, Member

- **Review and Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2024**
- **Policies**
  - EAA – Eligible Riders
  - IL – Education and Services for Students with Disabilities
  - NEW – Requests for Displays in Classrooms
- **FYI Only – Regulation**
  - EAA-RA – Eligible Riders
- **For the Good of the Order**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**  
**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE MINUTES**  
**APRIL 2, 2024**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

The Board of Education Policy Committee met at 3:00 p.m. on the above date virtually. Board members present were Melissa Ellis, Joanna Tobin, Dana Schallheim, and Eric Lin. Staff members present were Grace Wilson, Legislative and Policy Specialist; Maggie Gosewisch, Specialist Support: Legislation & Policy; Bob Mosier, Chief Communications Officer; Dan Reagan, Director of Internal Audits; Darren Burns, Board Legal Counsel; and Diane Howell, Executive Assistant to the Board. Laticia Hicks was present on behalf of the CAC.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Ellis opened the meeting with the approval of the minutes from the March 5, 2024, Committee meeting. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

**Policy**

**EAA – Eligible Riders:** Ms. Wilson explained that this policy and accompanying regulation were scheduled for review at the request of the Board. This is just one of 20 policies and regulations that govern the transportation of students. This policy defines which students, other than those with disabilities, are eligible for transportation by AACPS. It was last revised in March 2015, and the changes recommended are technical for style and formatting. The changes include: (1) the Issue statement has been updated to reflect that there is not a legal requirement for county boards of education to provide transportation to public school students, and (2) Position Statement 2 has been updated to delete outdated references and remove the reference to disable students as transportation for students with disabilities is addressed in Policy EAC and Regulation EAC-RA – Transportation of Students with Disabilities.

Dr. Tobin suggested that the Committee introduce more flexibility regarding how radii are determined in the policy to address equity issues and the particularities of different parts of the county, especially for Title I schools or Community Schools, where transportation may impact safety and attendance. Mrs. Schallheim proposed tying transportation to the designation of Community Schools, which are based on concentration of poverty grants. Mrs. Ellis expressed concern about the legality of Dr. Tobin’s suggestion. Mr. Burns advised that he would need to do more research and consultation with staff and transportation experts. Mr. Mosier and Ms. Wilson pointed out some potential budgetary and logistical issues with changing the transportation for Community Schools, especially as the number of Community Schools changes across the county. Ms. Hicks asked about the transportation for magnet students, and Ms. Wilson clarified that they are covered by Policy IP and Regulation IP-RA – Magnet Programs.

The Committee decided not to move the policy forward at this time and to have further meetings and discussions on the topic. Ms. Wilson offered to organize a meeting with Dr. Tobin and other relevant parties.

## **FYI Only – Regulation**

**EAA-RA – Eligible Riders:** This regulation was not discussed in detail during the meeting. The Committee decided to postpone the review of the regulation until further policy discussions occurred.

**Good of the Order:** None.

**Adjourn:** 3:38 PM

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: ~~700.01~~, EA, EA-RA, EAA-RA, JAB, JAB-RA

Responsible Office: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, –TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OFFICE

### ELIGIBLE RIDERS

#### A. PURPOSE

To establish a policy governing student transportation services for eligible Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) students to and from school as required by the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland and COMAR in accordance with State laws and regulations.

#### B. ISSUE

In accordance with State law, a county governing body, at its own expense, may provide transportation for public school students. Anne Arundel County Public Schools AACPS is responsible for the safe transportation of students who live outside of the designated walking zones for their assigned schools and other eligible students. Buses shall pick students up from their appointed bus stops, transport them to their assigned schools, and return them to their appointed bus stops at the end of the school day.

#### C. POSITION

1. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) is committed to providing bus transportation to eligible students from established bus stops to all Anne Arundel County Public Schools.
2. Student ridership shall be determined by where the student resides in relationship to their accordance with a student's residence and assigned school or, if an out of area transfer was granted for daycare with a documented hardship, or (effective beginning in the 2016-17 school year) or if there are extraordinary circumstances that warrant bus transportation, such as disabled students or students who must use hazardous roads or routes on the way to and from school.

**D. IMPLEMENTATION**

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

*Policy History:* Adopted on 03/18/15; ~~Revised //~~-

*Note Pprevious Ppolicy Hhistory:* Replaces Policy 700.01, adopted 09/06/72 and revised 03/07/90, 06/20/12

*Legal Reference(s):* None

DRAFT

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Related Entries: 611**

**Responsible Office: DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION**

### **EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **A. PURPOSE**

To ensure Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) provides access to a free, appropriate public education for all students with disabilities, regardless of severity, birth through 21 years of age in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

#### **B. ISSUE**

Federal and state laws govern the provision of early intervention and special education services to student with disabilities from birth through 21 years of age, who reside within its jurisdiction, and who are in need of special education and related services, including students who attend private school or who live in a state operated program.

#### **C. POSITION**

1. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) is committed to ensuring that special education services are based on the individual needs of each child, as determined by the decisions of the student's IEP team.
2. The Board recognizes that students with disabilities should be provided with appropriate services, supports, accommodations, and modifications to address individual needs, to promote student growth, and to receive educational benefit as stated in their IEPs or IFSPs.

#### **D. IMPLEMENTATION**

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

*Policy History:* Adopted on 03/02/16

*Note previous policy history:* Replaces Policy 611, adopted 09/04/79 and revised 05/20/91, and 05/04/94.

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Related Entries:** AC, CE, JCCA, JCCA-RA, JCH-RA, JQ, JQ-RA

**Responsible Office:** OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, DIVISION OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### REQUESTS FOR DISPLAYS IN CLASSROOMS

#### A. PURPOSE

To establish a policy to create and support schools that are safe climates to learn by ensuring that all student points of view are represented and respected in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

#### B. ISSUE

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) prohibits discrimination in all AACPS programs on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, or disability.

It is critical that each school develop an educational atmosphere that recognizes the dignity of each individual student. This policy is consistent with the goal of fostering learning environments that honor, respect, and support the diversity of the AACPS student body. The intent is to help ensure that all AACPS students, including those whose viewpoints may not be represented through displays at schools, feel safe, included, and respected, regardless of their beliefs or opinions.

#### C. POSITION

1. A student or the parent/guardian of a student may request the display of a flag, poster, or pennant in a classroom where the student or the parent/guardian's student spends at least part of their day. For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:
  - a. A flag is a piece of fabric or similar material, usually rectangular, that is used as a symbol or as a decoration.
  - b. A poster is printed sheet that is put on a wall as decoration.

- c. A pennant is a flag in the shape of a triangle.
2. The request shall be made to the teacher(s) or staff member(s) who oversees the classroom in writing. A teacher(s) or staff member(s) who oversees the classroom may deny a request from a student or parent/guardian to display a flag, poster, or pennant
3. A teacher(s) or staff member(s) may deny a request from a student or parent/guardian to display a flag, poster, or pennant in a classroom. A request for a display may be denied if the teacher(s) or staff member(s) who oversees the classroom has not invited an exchange of ideas or represented a single point of view on a multifaceted topic via a display. Notification of the denial of such a request shall be provided in writing.
4. The denial of a request to display a flag, poster, or pennant may be appealed to principal of the school or the principal's designee in writing.
5. The decision of the principal or principal's designee shall be provided in writing.
  - a. The principal or principal's designee may deny the display of a flag, poster, or pennant for the following reasons:
    - i. A violation of federal or State law or regulation;
    - ii. A violation of Board policy or AACPS' administrative regulation; or
    - iii. Promotion of a candidate for a public or party office or political party as defined in Section 1-101 of the Election Law Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
6. The decision of the principal or principal's designee may be appealed in accordance with Regulation JCH-RA – Student Complaints Related to Policy, Regulation, or Law. Consistent with Regulation JCH-RA, these complaints should be resolved at the lowest administrative level feasible.
7. The student or parent/guardian of the student that makes the request for the display of a flag, poster, or pennant is responsible for providing the flag, poster, or pennant requested to be displayed.
8. A flag, poster, or pennant displayed under this policy may not exceed the dimensions of three feet by five feet and may not disrupt the normal operation of the classroom or the school.



**D. IMPLEMENTATION**

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

*Policy History:* Adopted on mm/dd/yy

*Note Previous Policy History:* None

*Legal Reference:* [Section 1-101 of the Election Law Article](#)

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FYI ONLY

# REGULATION -- ANNE ARUNDEL CO UNTY -PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: EA, EA-RA, Policy-EAA

Responsible Office: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, TRANSPORTATION DIVISIONOFFICE

## ELIGIBLE RIDERS

### A. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for eligible student transportation services for Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) and to ensure compliance with Maryland State laws and regulations.

### B. BACKGROUND

In accordance with State law, a county governing body, at its own expense, may provide transportation for public school students. AACPS is responsible for the safe transportation of students who live outside of the designated walking zones for their assigned schools and other eligible students. The Supervisor of Transportation ~~is~~ shall be responsible for operational issues related to all aspects of transportation services. ~~These services shall be provided in accordance with the procedures identified in Section D below.~~

### C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Transportation for eligible riders* – the travel to and from school and between schools for instructional programs.
2. Eligible riders – students who:
  - a. ~~M~~meet the distance requirements from their respective schools to receive ~~how~~ transportation services;
  - b. ~~R~~students who received out-of-area transfers for daycare with a documented hardship (effective beginning in the 2016-17 school year); or
  - 2.c. ~~, or who have r~~Received an exception from the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's his/her designee for extraordinary circumstances that warrant bus transportation, such as ~~disabled students or~~ students who must use hazardous roads or routes on the way to and from school.

3. *Suitable walkway* – a sidewalk or path of adequate width over which students could walk without being required to step on to the traveled portion of the road surface.
4. *Isolated wooded area* – any location contiguous to a publicly used road, or a private road dedicated by deed for use by the public, where a student must walk in excess of three-tenths of a mile where there are woods between residences or active business areas without a suitable walkway.

## D. PROCEDURES

1. Transportation from established bus stops shall be provided to:

~~1.a.~~ Prekindergarten students who live within the school's attendance area and reside in excess of one-half mile from their assigned attending school by the nearest accessible route.;

~~2.b.~~ Kindergarten students who live within the school's attendance area and reside in excess of one-half mile from their ir assigned school by the nearest accessible route.;

c. All other elementary school students who live within the school's attendance area and reside more than one mile from their assigned schools by the nearest accessible route.

~~3.d. and a~~ All middle and high school students who live within the school's attendance area and reside more than one and one-half miles from their assigned schools by the nearest accessible route.;

~~4.e.~~ Kindergarten students residing within one-half mile of their assigned schools, elementary school students residing within one mile of their assigned schools, and middle and high -secondary school students residing within one and one-half mile of their assigned schools when a suitable walkway between their homes-residence and their assigned schools is not available. This provision will not apply when:

~~a.i.~~ The residential community is adjacent to the school grounds or has little or no transient traffic; or

~~b.ii.~~ The volume of traffic is non-hazardous during the time students walk to and from school as determined by a joint study conducted by the Anne Arundel County Traffic Engineering Division, the Traffic Safety Division-Section of the Anne Arundel County Police Department, and the Transportation Division of AACPS.

- ~~a.f.~~ Students who would otherwise be required to walk more than three-tenths of a mile to or from school along a road ~~having that has a~~ shoulder of less than three feet and a posted speed limit in excess of 40 miles per hour.
- ~~b.g.~~ Students who would otherwise be required to walk across a divided ~~s~~State highway or any divided highway involving a safety hazard as determined by the Transportation ~~Division~~Office.
- ~~5.h.~~ Students who would otherwise be required to walk across an active high-speed, at-grade railroad crossing or a bridge, tunnel, or overpass having inadequate walkways.
- ~~e.i.~~ Students who would otherwise be required to walk more than three-tenths of a mile through or along an isolated wooded area when going to and from school.
- ~~6.2.~~ The distance measurement shall be performed ~~by~~ using the most direct route from the school's closest ~~faeility~~ building entrance to the closest property line at the identified residence location, using a mechanical measuring distance wheel which measures the distance traversed in feet.
- ~~7.3.~~ AACPS shall provide transportation between schools and job sites for students who attend special schools (as defined by AACPS) who are enrolled in work-study programs during designated work-study hours.
4. Volunteer aides and employees of the Board may ride buses to and from school with written permission of the Supervisor of Transportation when space is available.
- 8.5. The Supervisor of Transportation may grant an exception to the provisions of this regulation and the accompanying policy as necessary to ensure the safe and equitable transportation of students.

~~Regulation History:~~ --Developed by Superintendent 12/17/14-  
Reviewed by Board of Education 12/17/14-  
Issued 03/18/15-

~~Note P~~~~previous R~~~~egulation H~~~~istory:~~ -- Replaces AR 700.01, issued 09/06/72, revised 03/07/90, and 06/20/12

Legal Reference(s): None