

# POLICY

## BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

**Related Entries:** EJ, EJ-RA

**Responsible Office:** OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

### SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

#### A. PURPOSE

To establish and implement a process for a sustainability plan in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) for the purpose of conserving natural resources, protecting the environment, reducing waste, fostering energy cost containment, and promoting environmental literacy systemwide in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

#### B. ISSUE

The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (Board) recognizes the importance of reducing the school system's environmental impact. As such, incorporating sustainable practices across all disciplines will reduce the school district's environmental impact and promote sound stewardship of natural resources by AACPS employees and students as well as other citizens of Anne Arundel County.

#### C. POSITION

1. The Board is committed to sustainability in AACPS. This effort is supported and reinforced through good management practices in combination with active employee and student participation.
2. The Board supports the establishment of appropriate sustainability program standards and procedures, employee training on duties and responsibilities, and monitoring implementation and compliance objectives.
3. In accordance with State law, the Superintendent shall implement a comprehensive sustainability plan to include energy and water conservation, green building design, energy efficiency, recycling and waste management, environmentally preferable purchasing practices, monitoring and reporting of renewable energy, tracking the school district's energy utilization, and encouraging activities that reduce pollution and waste.
4. In accordance with the Board's commitment, the Superintendent shall implement a

curriculum that is aligned with the Maryland State Department of Education environmental literacy standards, explores the relationship of sustainability principles to the environment and the economy, and encourages students, employees, and the AACPS community to be responsible stewards of the environment.

5. The Board shall comply with federal, State, and local environmental laws, regulations, standards, guidelines, and codes.

#### **D. IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.
2. The Superintendent is authorized to advocate for adequate resources to promote the school system's sustainability plan.
3. The Superintendent shall establish a Sustainability Steering Committee to establish and implement sustainability goals and objectives.
4. The Board shall review and update this policy, as necessary, every 3 years.

*Policy History:* Adopted on 09/25/13; Revised 05/04/22; Technical Edit 04/02/25

*Note Previous Policy History:* None

*Legal Reference:* Section 5-312.1 of the Education Article