

BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Book	BCPS Board Policies & Regulations
Section	A - Foundations and Basic Commitments
Title	Sustainability Policy
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POLICY

BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Sustainability

I. Purpose

- A. The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (“Board”) acknowledges the importance of the environment and natural resources to our collective economic and social well-being.
- B. The Board is committed to building and operating its facilities in an environmentally responsible manner to create healthy places to learn and work in order to improve student and staff opportunities for success.
- C. The Board aims to educate and empower students to be leaders in creating a sustainable city and society. The Board wants all students to be environmentally literate and to understand the connections between their daily actions and the environment by using the environment as a context for achieving academic goals and civic action.
- D. The Board is committed to creating an environmentally sustainable school district that will help preserve our environment, conserve our financial budget, and promote social well-being.

II. Definitions

- A. *Baltimore Sustainability Plans* – Includes, but is not limited to:

1. Baltimore City Sustainability Plan – Adopted in 2009, it aims to reduce the City’s energy and water use, reduce waste production, and maximize the reuse and recycling of materials, among other goals;
2. Baltimore City Climate Action Plan – Adopted in 2012, it aims to reduce the City’s greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, and vehicle usage, among other goals; and
3. Disaster Preparedness Project and Plan – Adopted in 2013, it aims to prepare the City’s built environment, infrastructure, and energy sources for the impacts of climate change.

- B. *Benchmarking* – A system to understand and evaluate the current position of an organization in relation to best practices and to identify areas in need of improvement. For the purposes of this policy and its associated administrative regulations, benchmarking refers to the collection, monitoring and setting of goals about utility use and costs.

- C. *Board school facilities* – Buildings and grounds, parking lots, playing fields and fixed equipment located on real property and used to provide or support an educational program for students where the Board is responsible for maintenance, utilities (such as gas, fuel oil, steam, water, sewage, electricity and trash removal) or any additional operating cost.
- D. *Conservation* – The careful use, management, and protection of natural resources and the environment to prevent depletion, pollution, and waste.
- E. *Council of Great City Schools* – A nonprofit membership organization of large urban school districts, of which Baltimore City Public Schools is a member. The organization tracks Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of its members.
- F. *Energy* – For the purposes of this policy and its associated administrative regulations, *energy* consists of electricity, fuel oil #2, natural gas, steam and renewable resources such as solar.
- G. *ENERGY STAR* – A program of the US Environmental Protection Agency that certifies products and buildings as being energy efficient and thereby helps save money and protect the climate through superior energy efficiency.
- H. *Energy Use Intensity (EUI)* – A measure of a facility's energy use per square foot per year, which allows facilities of different sizes using different energy types to be compared. It is calculated by dividing the total energy consumed by the facility in one year, measured in kBtus (British thermal units), by the total gross floor area of the building.
- I. *Environmental literacy* – An environmentally literate person is someone who, both individually and together with others, makes informed decisions concerning the environment; is willing to act on these decisions to improve the well-being of other individuals, societies, and the global environment; and participates in civic life, per the North American Association for Environmental Education.
- J. *Environmentally preferable purchasing and management practices* – An approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycles, including raw material acquisition, production, use/reuse/maintenance, and end of life management. This approach seeks to use materials in the most productive way with an emphasis on using less, reusing items whenever possible, eliminating to the extent practicable the use of toxic chemicals and products, and reducing materials' environmental impact, including reduced packaging and buying locally, in an effort to ensure City Schools has sufficient resources to meet present and future needs.
- K. *Environmental product and service label standards* – Labels for products and services that were developed and awarded by an impartial third-party, were developed in a public and transparent process, and that use specific and meaningful criteria. These include, but are not limited to Design Lights Consortium (for LED light fixtures and replacement bulbs), ENERGY STAR (for appliances, HVAC equipment, light fixtures and bulbs, water heaters and coolers, food service equipment, and vending machines), and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT, for computers, monitors, copiers, printers, and televisions).
- L. *Green* – A generic term that applies to products and practices that protect both the environment and human health.
- M. *Green school* – A school building or facility that provides a healthy environment conducive to learning while saving energy, water, resources and money, and promotes environmental literacy.
- N. *Green cleaning program* – The practice of using green cleaning supplies and practices that, at a minimum, comply with the Maryland Green Cleaning Law and that protect indoor air quality, human health and the environment.
- O. *Green cleaning supplies* – Products and equipment intended for routine cleaning and building maintenance that have reduced effects on human health and the environment compared to competing products that serve the same purpose. Many are certified to contain low-toxicity levels and be biodegradable, or have a low volatile organic compound (VOC) content, reduced packaging, and/or low lifecycle energy use as well as positive product performance. *Green cleaning supplies* include, but are not limited to:
1. Recycled-content or compostable bags and liners;
 2. Certified low-toxicity cleaning chemicals;
 3. Certified low-toxicity floor maintenance products;
 4. Certified low-toxicity hand soaps devoid of antibacterial ingredients;

5. High performance janitorial equipment (e.g. microfiber mops), and powered equipment (floor polishers);
 6. Recycled-content janitorial paper products and high-efficiency hand dryers;
 7. Non-toxic cleansing wipes; and
 8. Sanitizers and disinfectants – due to their ability to kill pathogens, these typically are not certified as green; however, less-toxic yet still effective products exist.
- P. *Green Seal* – A green product labeling program for cleaning products, hand soaps, floor maintenance chemicals, janitorial paper products and other items, operated by a non-profit organization. It is an acceptable standard under the Maryland Green Cleaning law.
- Q. *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)* – A system for an organization to define and measure goals and achievements. The Council of Great City Schools establishes energy, water and waste KPIs for schools.
- R. *Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED)* – A green building certification program that recognizes building strategies and practices. Building projects must meet required and optional design, construction and operation items to earn points, thus achieving different levels of certification (Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum).
- S. *Maryland Energy laws* – Includes, but is not limited to, EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2016, the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards, , and the Maryland High Performance Building Act of 2008.
- T. *Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards* – A state law that requires local education authorities to incorporate eight environmental education standards into their curricula, and a related law that requires students graduating high school in 2015 or later to be environmentally literate. The standards are: Environmental Issues; Interactions of Earth's Systems; Flow of Matter and Energy; Populations, Communities and Ecosystems; Humans and Natural Resources; Environmental Health; Environment and Society; and Sustainability.
- U. *Maryland Green Cleaning law* – A state law that requires county boards of education to write policies and guidelines on the procurement of green cleaning supplies that: require the use of supplies that meet nationally-recognized environmental certification requirements; establish green cleaning practices (including storage, application, frequency of use, and disposal of supplies) to ensure that school building occupants do not suffer any adverse health effects as the result of these practices; and require staff training on implementing the policy.
- V. *Maryland Engine Idling law* – A state law that states a motor vehicle may not be allowed to idle for more than five consecutive minutes when the vehicle is not in motion, with the following exceptions: the vehicle is stopped due to traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties; the engine is operating heating, cooling or auxiliary equipment to bring the engine to the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature; or to accomplish the intended use of the vehicle.
- W. *Maryland High Performance Building Act* – A state law that requires capital projects involving the construction or major renovation of state buildings, including public schools, meet the criteria as a "high performance building," defined as buildings that achieve at least a Silver LEED rating, or the International Green Construction Code. "Major renovation" is any project with a scope of 7,500 square feet or greater; reuses the building shell for the new construction; and involves the replacement of the HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems.
- X. *Maryland Recycling law* – A state law that requires every county in the state, including the City of Baltimore, to develop a recycling strategy for its schools.
- Y. *Recycling* – Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. In Baltimore, many items may be co-mingled (paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal) and others should be separated (light bulbs, electronics).
- Z. *Renewable energy* – Energy which is regularly replenished, such as solar, wind, waves and geothermal heat, in contrast to non-renewable energy such as fossil fuels, which draw on finite resources that will eventually dwindle and become too expensive or too environmentally damaging to retrieve.
- A. *Safer Choice* – A green product labeling program for cleaning products, hand soaps and other items, operated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. It covers cleaning, floor maintenance products, hand soaps, and de-icing chemicals. It is an acceptable standard under the Maryland Green Cleaning law. Prior to 2015, the name was Design for the Environment.

- AB. *Sustainability* – An approach to living whereby the needs of the current generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, as defined by the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations in 1987.
- BC. *Sustainability captain* – A school-based staff person designated by each principal by September 30 of each school year to oversee sustainability efforts at the school.
- CD. *Toxic chemicals and products* –Substances that can cause adverse health effects such as asthma, cancer, reproductive harm in humans or other animals if they are inhaled, ingested, or absorbed through the skin.
- DE. *UL EcoLogo* – A green product labeling program for cleaning products, hand soaps, floor maintenance chemicals, and other items. It is an acceptable standard under the Maryland Green Cleaning Law.
- EF. *WaterSense* – A green product labeling program for water-using devices (faucets, toilets, etc.), operated by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

III. Policy Standards

A. City Schools shall develop a Sustainability Plan (“Plan”) that establishes performance metrics and goals. The Plan shall be updated every three years. It shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Energy, water, and resource conservation management;
2. Environmentally preferable purchasing and management practices;
3. Exterior building maintenance, landscape management, and erosion control;
4. Green building design, new construction and renovation, and operations;
5. Green cleaning;
6. Healthy indoor air quality;
7. Healthy food and nutrition service and education;
8. Integrated pest management (IPM);
9. Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards compliance;
10. Partnership cultivation;
- and
11. Solid waste management, prioritizing waste reduction, the reuse and recycling of materials, and composting;
12. Student environmental leadership and service, including engagement with nature and the outdoors.

B. Applicability. This policy and its associated administrative regulations shall apply to every school including charter schools unless an exception is noted or an item is not required under city, state or federal law.

IV. Implementation Strategies

The CEO shall form a Sustainability Steering Committee to assist with the implementation of this policy.

V. Compliance

The CEO/designee shall submit an annual Sustainability Report to the Board by December 15 that shall include progress towards goals established in the Sustainability Plan and it shall be available to the public on the City Schools website.

VI. Legal and Policy References

A. Legal Authority

- §5-112(e), Md. Code Ann., Education (Green Cleaning Law)
- §5-301, 5-312, Md. Code Ann., Education (High Performance Building Act)
- §2-1201 through §2-1211, Md. Code Ann., Environment (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2016)
- §9-1703 Md. Code Ann., Environment (Maryland Recycling Law)
- §7-211, Md. Code Ann., Public Utilities (EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act)
- §7-701(i), Md. Code Ann., Public Utilities (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards)
- §3-602, §3-602.1, Md. Code Ann, State Finance and Procurement (High Performance Building Act of 2008)
- §22-402 Md. Code Ann., Transportation (Maryland Engine Idling Law)
- COMAR 13A.03.02 (Environmental Literacy Standards)
- COMAR 13A.04.17 (Environmental Literacy Standards)

Baltimore City Sustainability Plan of 2009
Baltimore City Climate Action Plan of 2012
Disaster Preparedness Project and Plan of 2013

B. Policy References

Related Board Policies: ADF, DJA, FKA, IHB

C. Administrative Regulation References

ADG-RA, ADG-RB, ADG-RC, DJA-RA

Sponsoring Officer: Chief Operating Officer

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