

1 **Related Entries:** DIE-RC, DJA, DJA-RA, ECF-RB, ECF-RC, EEA,
2 **EEA-RA, EEB-RA, KGA-RA, ~~ECM, ECM-RA~~**
3 **Responsible Office:** ~~Supportive Services~~Office of the Chief of
4 **Finance and Operations**

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6
7 **Sustainability ~~Energy Conservation~~**

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9
10 **A. PURPOSE**

11
12 **To affirm the Montgomery County Board of Education's**
13 **commitment to sustainability practices, including energy**
14 **conservation and efficiency**

15
16 **To establish a framework and decision-making priorities for**
17 **environmentally sustainable practices in Montgomery County**
18 **Public Schools (MCPS)**

19
20 **To promote effective educational opportunities that allow for**
21 **students and staff to understand the consequences of human-**
22 **induced environmental change on individual and collective**
23 **health and well-being and consider the environmental impact**
24 **and costs of decision-making at all levels**

25
26 **To set the expectation for environmentally sustainable**
27 **practices, equitably deployed across the MCPS system to**
28 **promote the health and wellness of students and staff**

Code of
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Regulations
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29
30 ~~To ensure that Montgomery County Public Schools pursues~~
31 ~~energy conservation efforts and practices that continue to~~
32 ~~preserve our natural resources while providing a safe and~~
33 ~~comfortable learning environment for all staff and students~~

34
35 **B. ISSUE**

36
37 MCPS is among the largest school systems in the country, and
38 the largest in the state of Maryland, in terms of enrollment.
39 MCPS serves a county that encompasses approximately 500
40 square miles, spanning from rural to urban settings, and whose
41 tributaries feed into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Due to
42 the number of facilities needed to support our educational
43 mission, MCPS is one of the largest consumers of energy and
44 other natural resources in the county.

45
46 MCPS must intentionally, equitably, and progressively reduce
47 its environmental impact and costs, while improving health
48 and wellness, and provide effective environmental and
49 sustainability education.

50
51 A comprehensive approach to sustainability and environmental
52 stewardship acknowledges the consequences of human-induced
53 environmental change and the need for local actions that
54 protect, sustain, or restore the environment; and requires
55 practices that demonstrate responsible use of public funds
56 by prioritizing investments that maximize adaptation,

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57 resilience and mitigation of the effects of climate change as
58 well as efficient, sustainable use of land and resources.

59
60 A key component of a sustainable environmental footprint is
61 reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions wherever possible,
62 both to benefit the environment and reduce energy expenses.

63
64 The Montgomery County Board of Education ~~desires to work~~
65 **(Board) collaborates** ~~with other agencies of federal, state,~~
66 **and local partners** ~~government and plan school system~~
67 ~~activities to solve regional problems, achieve optimal so that~~
68 ~~the learning environments and functionality of essential~~
69 **education programs and operations, using effectively and**
70 **equitably employed sustainability practices and technology.**

71 ~~are not curtailed or compromised. A key component of a zero~~
72 ~~environmental footprint is reducing emission~~

73 ~~The nation is experiencing a depletion of its natural~~
74 ~~resources which include crude oil, natural gas and other~~
75 ~~energy sources. The Montgomery County Public Schools is~~
76 ~~committed to reducing its consumption of natural resources~~
77 ~~and still improving the quality of its educational programs~~

78

79 **C. POSITION**

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81 **1. MCPS will incorporate sustainability priorities into**
82 **decision-making processes based on equitable and**
83 **strategic deployment of resources to address climate-**
84 **based impacts on health, safety, and wellness and to**

85 achieve more energy-efficient and cost-effective school
86 operations. MCPS supports and will be an active
87 participant in achieving Montgomery County's goal to cut
88 GHG emissions 80 percent by 2027 and 100 percent by 2035
89 compared to 2005 levels.

90
91 The Board is committed to innovative and systemwide
92 sustainability to include -

- 93
- 94 a) reducing the generation of GHG;
 - 95
 - 96 b) reducing systemwide energy use intensity and
97 reliance on non-renewable resources;
 - 98
 - 99 c) increasing the generation and production of solar
100 energy and use of other renewable energy sources;
 - 101
 - 102 d) identifying strategies that equip MCPS with
103 resources and infrastructure necessary to withstand
104 the impacts of climate change;
 - 105
 - 106 e) using waste reduction and GHG emissions as criteria
107 in decisions related to purchasing, including, but
108 not limited to, energy, transportation, and other
109 operational areas; and
- 110

111 f) improving the quality of MCPS operations and school
112 environments to positively impact building occupant
113 health and building system performance.
114

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2. MCPS will fully comply with Maryland State Department of
Education requirements for a comprehensive, multi-
disciplinary environmental literacy program infused
within current curricular offerings and aligned with the
Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards that provide
developmentally appropriate opportunities for students
to investigate environmental issues in order to develop
and implement local actions that protect, sustain, or
restore the natural environment; and understand the
environmental impact of human activity, the consequences
of environmental change, and individual, collective, and
societal responses to environmental change.

128 D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

130 1. In alignment with its core educational purpose to
131 prepare all students to thrive in the future, MCPS makes
132 sustainability a priority for present-day decision that
133 impact students' lives.

135 2. MCPS minimizes its environmental impact and operational
136 costs.

137

138 3. MCPS operational practices meet the immediate needs of
139 the school system without compromising or burdening
140 present and future generations.

141
142 4. Staff and students are knowledgeable about the
consequences of human-induced environmental change,
and individual, collective, and societal responses to
environmental change.

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146
147 5. Staff and students consider the environmental impact and
148 costs of decision-making at all levels.

149
150 6. MCPS ~~c~~creates and maintains a healthy and comfortable
151 learning environments that achieve maximum energy
152 efficiency with a consistent focus on sustainability.
153 ~~while controlling energy consumption more efficiently~~
154 ~~and diverting the otherwise rising utility costs towards~~
155 ~~educational programs.~~

156
157 7. MCPS implements operational practices and programs that
158 achieve measurable reductions in GHG that align with the
159 Montgomery County Climate Action Plan's GHG reduction
160 targets.

161
162 8. MCPS optimizes limited funding to achieve a
163 sound, resilient, and sustainable educational
164 facilities portfolio that accounts for variations in
165 age, site conditions and geographic distribution.

166 ~~Continue development of energy conservation efforts that~~
167 ~~proportionally reduces energy consumption in new and~~
168 ~~existing facilities.~~

169

170 **E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

171

172 **1. The superintendent of schools/designee will shall**
173 ~~continue to establish~~**maintain and enhance** procedures to
174 ~~ensure the conservation of natural resources~~**promote**
175 **environmental sustainability** by personnel at all levels
176 of the school system, which shall include the following
177 practices:

178

179 **a) ~~g)Continuing reminders to staff and students of the~~**
180 ~~need for conservation of all natural resources~~
181 **Develop processes to establish and foster an**
182 **organizational culture and operational procedures**
183 **that foster creativity, cross-departmental**
184 **collaboration and innovation to implement systemic**
185 **climate solutions.**

186

187 **a)b) Infuse sustainability concepts across school**
188 **curricula and professional development to provide**
189 **opportunities that allow students and staff to gain**
an understanding of individual, collective, and
societal responses to human-induced environmental
change; and engage in climate solutions,

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193 preparedness/adaptation responses, and
194 environmentally sustainable practices.

195
196 2. The superintendent of schools/designee will identify
197 actions that can be taken immediately and longer term to
198 reduce the generation of GHG and consumption of
199 nonrenewable resources, and increase efficiency,
200 including, but not limited to, the following:

201
202 a) Actively manage energy and water consumption by
203 using technology that can be viewed and monitored
204 by building occupants and responsible operational
205 personnel. ~~f) Procurement and consumption~~
206 ~~management of fossil fuels and electricity e)~~
207 ~~Monitoring the general operation and maintenance of~~
208 ~~all heating, ventilation, and air conditioning~~
209 ~~equipment.~~

210
211 b) Use a wholesale managed approach for utility
212 procurement and participate in coordinated efforts
213 with federal, state, and local government agencies
214 to establish appropriate resource conservation
215 plans.

216
217 c) Continued development and implementation of
218 behavior-based ~~conservation~~—sustainability
219 programs, including strategies to increase the

- 220 number of Maryland-certified Green schools and
221 other programs.
- 222
223 d) Convert or replace MCPS vehicles, as appropriate,
224 from diesel and gasoline to electric, hybrid, or
225 other more efficient or cleaner-fuel vehicles.
226
- 227 e) Promote design strategies and retrofits to make new
228 and existing buildings more sustainable and
229 resilient by designing every construction project
230 to maximize solar production potential and minimize
231 energy use intensity, considering a
232 balanced facilities and infrastructure portfolio
233 across the system.
- 234
235 f) Pursue energy savings infrastructure improvement
236 projects in existing buildings through the use
237 public-private partnerships and available grants
238 and tax credits.
- 239
240 a)g) Where possible, seek to collocate schools to
241 facilitate compact growth, efficient use of public
242 infrastructure, and adjacency to public services
243 and amenities.
244
- 245 h) Implement other measures to address resiliency and
246 awareness, such as increasing the tree canopy and
247 outdoor educational spaces on MCPS properties, and
248 mitigating storm water runoff.

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- i) **Establish minimum sustainability requirements in MCPS procurement guidelines for -**
 - (a) **locally-sourced products;**
 - (b) **maximized waste reduction; and**
 - (c) **reusable or recyclable products and/or content,**
 - (d) **where available at scale at a fair and reasonable price, across all areas of operations.**

~~MCPS will participate in a coordinated effort by government authorities to establish appropriate resource conservation plans and utility price monitoring systems to ensure that public schools have adequate supplies of essential fuels and can obtain these at the best possible prices.~~

~~b) Development of acceptable energy conservation guidelines as outlined in the resource conservation plan~~

~~d) Performance of energy studies on all new MCPS construction~~
~~1. Should natural resources be insufficient to meet normal operating needs, the superintendent will develop further plans for the consideration of the Board of Education to conserve energy.~~

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

277 1. MCPS will update the inventory of GHG emissions for its
278 facilities at regular intervals, with updates aligned
279 with local reporting requirements.

280
281 2. a) ~~Generation~~ MCPS will develop periodic a
282 systemwide annual reports that outline goals, objectives
283 and results of sustainability efforts in alignment with
284 all federal, state, and local requirements. resource
285 conservation plan. that outlines goals and objectives

286
287 3. The Board will receive information about sustainability
288 features in construction project updates, and MCPS will
289 implement methods of sharing sustainability features of
290 the MCPS facility portfolio with the public, such as
291 websites and/or local signage.

292
293 ~~42. Copies of this policy and the annual resource~~
294 ~~conservation plan will be sent to appropriate school~~
295 ~~system and county government officials. This policy and~~
296 ~~related documents will be updated and shared in~~
297 ~~alignment with federal, state, and local requirements.~~

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299 ~~4.5.~~ This policy will be reviewed on an on-going basis in
300 accordance with the Board of Education's policy review
301 process.

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304 **Related Sources:** Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article,
305 §75-312.1, *School district energy policies*;
306 Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article,
307 §7-117, *Increasing the number of green schools*
308 *in the state*; Code of Maryland Regulations,
309 13A.04.17.01, Environmental Literacy
310 Instructional Programs for Grades
311 Prekindergarten-12; Montgomery County
312 Executive Regulation 15-1: Solid Waste and
313 Recycling; Montgomery County Climate Action
314 Plan of 2021

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317 **Policy History:** Adopted by Resolution No. 654-73, November 13,
318 1973; amended by Resolution No. 285-97, May 13, 1997; reviewed
319 April 19, 2002; **amended**