

**ANTOINE L. HICKMAN, CHIEF OFFICER**  
**STUDENT SUPPORT INITIATIVES & RECOVERY**

December 1, 2020

TO: All Principals

FROM: Antoine L. Hickman, Ed.D. *ALH*  
Chief Student Support Initiatives & Recovery Officer

VIA: Valerie S. Wanza, Ph.D.  
Chief School Performance & Accountability Officer

SUBJECT: **POLICY 5.5: ATTENDANCE (REVISED)**

**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Communicate the School Board of Broward County's most recent change to Policy 5.5 requiring all students to have their cameras on during attendance and direct instruction. Communications should be delivered to staff, students and parents. See attached guidance for policy implementation.
- 2) Ensure that school websites are updated with the most recent (11/17/20) Policy 5.5: Attendance information. The "School Protocols" or "School Policies" pages that include attendance or absence information must link to the most recent policy.
- 3) Monitor the implementation of the requirement that students must have their cameras on for attendance and instruction. Teachers should indicate noncompliance in Pinnacle's Quick Attendance Comment Box as student "Did not turn on camera" to maintain a record of the behavior.

The BCPS Attendance Office updated the "Report an Absence" page with the link to the revised policy.

Newly adopted language begins under Section VIII on page 9. The amended language for paragraph A. 2. reads as follows:

2. During distance learning, the use of student cameras is required for attendance and instruction. Students will be counted in attendance in the learning environment during their scheduled class time. Teachers should be flexible and consider any extenuating circumstances of individual students who may be unable to turn on a camera. Teachers may consider other evidence of attendance for individual cases.

**RATIONALE:** Policy 5.5 was revised and adopted by the School Board of Broward County on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

The School Board's decision to require camera usage by students was based on feedback from students, teachers, administrators, and other employees from an Attendance Survey that was conducted between Nov. 6 – 16, 2020. Results from the survey revealed that 75% of the School-based administrators who responded and 69% of teachers who responded support requiring cameras for attendance.

School Board members unanimously agreed the policy should require students to turn on their cameras during attendance and direct instruction. For questions related to this policy, please contact Phillip Shaver, Coordinator, District Attendance, by email at [phillip.shaver@browardschools.com](mailto:phillip.shaver@browardschools.com).

VSW/ALH/MK:ps  
Attachment

c: Senior Leadership Team