



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Stefanie Mavronis, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE)
DATE	February 24, 2025
SUBJECT	City Council Bill 25-0002 – Study and Report – Absences in Baltimore City Schools

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

February 24, 2025

Favorable

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) has reviewed Council Bill 25-0002, which requires the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) to develop and submit to the City Council within 180 days a report providing detailed data and analysis on the root causes of student absences during School Year 2023-2024. The bill requires BCPSS, in developing the report, to collaborate with MONSE along with a number of other City agencies (the Baltimore Police Department, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, Mayor's Office of African-American Male Engagement, and the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City) to develop recommendations to stem chronic absenteeism.

MONSE recognizes the importance of addressing high rates of absenteeism in Baltimore City schools. The Biennial Update of Mayor Scott's Comprehensive Violence Prevention Plan (CVPP) includes, for the first time, a specific Youth Justice pillar focused on uplifting the safety of Baltimore's young people, investing in their future, and paving the way for their - and our City's - success. MONSE stands ready to support efforts to keep young people in class, including collaboration with BCPSS and other agencies to identify and implement solutions to the most persistent attendance barriers.

For this reason, we respectfully take a favorable position on City Council Bill 25-0002.