

CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 25-0002

Introduced by: Councilmember Conway
Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter,
Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos, and President Cohen
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025
Assigned to: Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee

Committee Report: Favorable, with Amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: March 10, 2025

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Study and Report – Absences in Baltimore City Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ requesting the Baltimore City Public School System (“City
4 Schools”) to prepare a report exploring the causes of student absences to better identify
5 solutions to address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school; requiring
6 City Schools to collaborate with certain City agencies to propose recommendations to
7 address the root causes of unexcused absences found in the report; and providing for a
8 special effective date.

9 **Recitals**

10 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That:**

- 11 (a) The City Council would like to determine the root causes of student absences, both
12 excused and unexcused, so as to develop policy recommendations that agencies can
13 implement to address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school.
- 14 (b) No later than 180 days after enactment of the Resolution, ~~City Schools shall the~~
15 Mayor and City Council request City Schools develop and submit to the City Council
16 a report providing ~~detailed data and analysis on traditional public school absences~~
17 during School Year 2023-2024 (“SY23-24”) 2024-2025 (“SY24-25”) exploring the
18 root causes of student absences both excused and unexcused, ~~including:~~ potentially
19 including such factors as:
- 20 (1) reasons for absences;
 - 21 (2) date of absences;
 - 22 (3) economic class of absent students;
 - 23 (4) parent involvement in absent students’ education;
 - 24 (5) sibling involvement in absent students’ education;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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- (6) typical type of transportation to school of absent students;
- ~~(7) type of school, such as charter, private, or public;~~
- ~~(8) location of school and absent students' homes; and~~
- ~~(9) any other data City Schools finds relevant to developing a full analysis of the causes of absenteeism.~~
- (7) HOUSING INSTABILITY;
- (8) LANGUAGE BARRIERS EXPERIENCED BY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND
- (9) ANY OTHER DATA CITY SCHOOLS FINDS RELEVANT TO DEVELOPING A FULL ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF ABSENTEEISM.

(c) The report ~~shall further~~ is requested to further include Baltimore City Schools' efforts to stem chronic absenteeism by:

- (1) examining SY23-24 attendance data to understand the demographic, economic, and geographic distribution of absenteeism and determine patterns in excused and unexcused absences;
- (2) identifying a sample of schools to perform data collection during ~~the fall semester of 2024~~ SY24-25 based on the analysis of SY23-24 administrative data, including implementing a data collection plan with sample schools:
- (3) meet with school attendance staff to assess and define challenges to addressing chronic absenteeism;
- (4) attempt to make contact with families and students to gather information about the reasons for student absence;
- (5) deploying a mixed method design to Fall 2024 data across a sample of schools to understand the most persistent root causes contributing to absences; ~~and~~
- (6) collecting qualitative data from school attendance leads, adults who have a relationship with chronically absent students, and ~~families;~~ families; and
- (7) review the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between City Schools and the Maryland Transit Administration ("MTA") and provide recommendations to update the terms of the MOU to better address student needs.

(d) City Schools shall present the report at a City Council Hearing.

~~(e) (d) When developing the report, City Schools will collaborate with~~ No later than 180 days after the hearing, the Baltimore Police Department, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, Mayor's Office of African-American Male Engagement, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Maryland Transit Administration, and the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City to will analyze the collected data report and collaborate with City Schools to develop innovative solutions for how these agencies can support efforts to address the root causes of unexcused absences.

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1 ~~(e) City Schools shall present the report at a City Council hearing.~~

2 (f) Prior to SY25-26 City schools and the MTA are requested to execute a new MOU
3 informed by the recommendations of this study, prior to SY25-26.

4 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it
5 is enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City