

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

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School Commissioners

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: Position Statement
City Council Bill (Resolution) 12-0023R

Dear Council President Young:

On February 22, 2012 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned resolution, calling upon the Mayor and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development to add a year-round component to YouthWorks, in order to better meet the needs of Baltimore's young people. Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) and YouthWorks share similar goals for improving the long-term outcomes for young people in Baltimore City. Research shows that when students are engaged in a positive activity such as YouthWorks, the chance for them to become involved in at-risk behaviors is reduced.

Expanding the work of YouthWorks would allow for our students to continue to achieve academic success, maintain positive adult and student relationships, learn assertiveness techniques, develop career interests and increase their chances of graduating on time. Most importantly, adding a year-round component to YouthWorks would allow our students to work on these skills throughout the year, rather than only during the summer months. Expanding YouthWorks would encourage students to attend school every day, to aim for a high school diploma, and to be successful in life.

City Schools therefore supports this resolution, and will be glad to testify regarding our support. Thank you for inviting us to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

C: Dawana Sterrette, Legislative Liaison
Karen Webber, Executive Director – Student Support and Safety

