



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION, YOUTH, & OLDER ADULTS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the mission of the **Education, Youth, and Older Adults (EYOA) Committee** is to study, review, and recommend policies that enhance educational opportunities, support the well-being and development of young people, and improve the quality of life for older adults. The committee is committed to fostering equitable access to high-quality education, advocating for youth empowerment, and ensuring that aging residents have the resources and services necessary to thrive.

The Honorable John Bullock

CHAIR

PUBLIC HEARING

February 19, 2026

12:30PM

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

25-0043R

*Informational Hearing – Process of Permanent
School Closures*

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**EDUCATION, YOUTH, & OLDER ADULTS COMMITTEE****The Honorable John Bullock**
CHAIR**Resolution Hearing***Bill: 25-0043R**Title: Informational Hearing – Process of Permanent School Closures*

For the purpose of inviting representatives of Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to brief the City Council on the process by which a school in the City is permanently closed.

BACKGROUND

Public schools in Baltimore serve as centers of academic instruction and community activity. Decisions to permanently close a school are made by Baltimore City Public Schools under policies adopted by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

Board Policy FCA, “Closing of Schools and Building Facility Surplus,” establishes the procedures governing permanent school closures. Under this policy, proposed school closures must be publicly announced and made available for review at least 60 days before the Board takes action. The policy requires that the Board provide a written rationale for closure decisions and outlines procedures for notice and the opportunity to appeal to the Maryland State Board of Education. The policy also addresses the declaration of surplus property following a closure.

<https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/bcpss/Board.nsf/files>

Facilities planning materials published by Baltimore City Public Schools provide systemwide data regarding enrollment trends, building conditions, and capital improvement needs, which may inform decisions related to school utilization and long-term planning.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/>

In November 2025, Baltimore City Public Schools announced that New Song Academy, a public charter school located in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood, would close permanently at the end of the 2025–2026 school year. According to district statements reported by local media, the closure was attributed to financial challenges and building infrastructure concerns.

<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/>

Permanent school closures may affect student assignments, staff placement, transportation logistics, and the future use of school facilities. Because closure decisions are governed by district policy and state education law, the City Council seeks to understand the applicable procedures and criteria.

Bill Synopsis

This resolution invites representatives of Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to brief the Baltimore City Council on the process by which a school in Baltimore City is permanently closed.

The requested briefing includes information regarding:

- The legal and policy framework governing permanent school closures, including Board Policy FCA;
- The criteria and data considered in determining whether permanent closure is recommended;
- The timeline and requirements for public notice and Board action;
- The role of community engagement and public comment in the process; and
- Any applicable appeal procedures under Maryland law.

The resolution further directs that copies be transmitted to the Chief Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Chair of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact.

REPORTING AGENCIES

- **Baltimore City Public Schools**

Analysis by: Juliane Jemmott
Analysis Date: 2/17/2026

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CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0043R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Bullock

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, Parker, Conway, Torrence, Porter, and Glover, and President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: December 15, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public Schools

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Process of Permanent School Closures**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives of Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore
4 City Board of School Commissioners to brief the City Council on the process by which a
5 school in the City is permanently closed.

6 **Recitals**

7 Baltimore’s schools are a core part of its identity. In addition to teaching useful knowledge
8 and skills, schools are often a central location for a community to congregate for civic and
9 cultural events. Many Baltimoreans closely identify with where they went to school, and the
10 social bonds created among classmates boost community pride and engagement.

11 However, Baltimore City Public Schools may on occasion see fit for a school to be closed
12 permanently. For example, in November 2025, Baltimore City Public Schools announced that
13 the charter school New Song Academy in Sandtown-Winchester would be closing permanently,
14 citing maintenance issues with the building and financial concerns with the managing nonprofit.

15 The Baltimore City Council wishes to better understand the process by which a school in the
16 City is permanently closed, including what criteria are used to determine that permanent closure
17 is the best option for a school and how public feedback and community impact analysis are used
18 in the process.

19 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
20 Council invites representatives of Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore City Board of
21 School Commissioners to brief the City Council on the process by which a school in the City is
22 permanently closed.

23 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Chief
24 Executive Officer of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Chair of the Baltimore City Board of
25 School Commissioners, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to City Council.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.