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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mission Statement

The Budget and Appropriations Committee (BA) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Danielle McCray
Chairwoman**

**PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025
6:30 PM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor and City Council Resolution – 25-0075

**Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School
Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026**

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OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES
NANCY MEAD – DIRECTOR
100 N. HOLIDAY STREET
BALTIMORE MD, 21202

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Budget & Appropriations

Mayor and City Council Resolution: 25-0075

Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

Sponsor: *President Cohen at the request of the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners*

Introduced: *May 15, 2025*

Purpose:

For the purpose of approving the budget estimated to be needed for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for operating programs during Fiscal 2026; providing for certification of the approved budget to the State Superintendent of Schools; and providing for a special effective date.

Effective: **Beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.**

Analysis

Current Law

Section 5-102 (Article – Education) of the Annotated Code of Maryland outlines the rules, policies and/or mandates for the budget for the Baltimore City Public School System §5-102.

(a) In this subtitle, “county council” means, in Baltimore City, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

(b) (1) Each county board shall submit an annual school budget in writing to the county commissioners, county council, or the county executive.

(2) The budget shall be submitted not less than 45 days before the date for levying local taxes or on an earlier date on or after March 1 as may be requested by the county fiscal authority.

(c) (1) This subsection applies only to a county that has a county governing body that consists of a county executive and county council.

(2) The county executive shall indicate in writing which major categories of the annual budget of the county board have been denied in whole or reduced in part and the reason for the denial or reduction.

(3) The county council may restore any denial or reduction made by the county executive in the annual budget submitted by the county board.

(4) In Baltimore County, the County Council may not restore any denial or reduction made by the County Executive.

(5) This item applies to Baltimore County and supersedes item (4) of this subsection only if the voters of Baltimore County approve an amendment to the Baltimore County Charter that grants the County Council the authority to restore any denial or reduction made by the County Executive in the budget submitted by the county board. The Baltimore County Council may restore any denial or reduction made by the County Executive if it publicly states the amount the restoration represents in the county tax rate.

(d) (1) In Baltimore City, the City Council may not restore any denial or reduction made by the Mayor.

(2) (i) This paragraph applies to Baltimore City and supersedes paragraph (1) of this subsection only if the voters of Baltimore City approve an amendment to the Baltimore City Charter that grants the City Council the authority to restore any denial or reduction made by the Mayor in the budget submitted by the county board.

(ii) The Baltimore City Council may restore any denial or reduction made by the Mayor if it publicly states the amount the restoration represents in the city tax rate.

(e) (1) Copies of the budget shall be made available to the public, on request, at the time it is submitted by the county board.

(2) A copy of the budget as approved by the county commissioners or county council shall be sent to the State Superintendent within 30 days after approval.

Background

On Thursday, May 15, 2025 representatives from the Baltimore City Public School System came before the committee/councilmembers and gave an overview on the Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

The committee will reconvene the hearing on June 2, 2025 for representative(s) from Baltimore City Public Schools/Board of School Commissioners to discuss their budget in more detail and answer any questions or concerns the committee/councilmembers may have regarding their budget.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): City Charter, Section 5-102 (Article – Education) of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and Mayor and City Council Resolutions 24-0523 and 25-0075.

Marguerite M. Currin
Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin
Analysis Date: May 29, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON – OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Revenues	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
City Of Baltimore	\$258,212,181	\$268,212,181	\$278,439,227	\$278,412,181	\$278,412,181	\$287,346,700	\$295,085,483	\$313,229,545	\$392,537,225	\$386,584,273	\$390,502,686
State of Maryland	\$902,476,953	\$869,934,442	\$855,053,361	\$851,005,354	\$851,655,194	\$905,074,789	\$904,950,218	\$1,112,473,143	\$1,111,456,108	\$1,162,114,885	\$1,254,618,093
Fund Balance	\$25,000,000	\$53,570,964	\$20,727,950	\$15,000,000	\$22,000,000	\$15,300,000	\$17,500,000	\$21,173,697	\$5,675,290	\$22,508,410	\$15,654,240
Federal	\$143,692,414	\$151,691,325	\$152,095,667	\$163,625,417	\$164,193,284	\$173,814,823	\$169,117,720	\$166,787,598	\$187,867,811	\$204,740,437	\$197,945,870
Other	\$10,033,702	\$8,423,497	\$7,426,593	\$6,395,000	\$6,383,279	\$7,124,000	\$7,124,274	\$7,124,559	\$7,327,995	\$10,837,488	\$12,357,433
TotalFunds	\$1,339,415,250	\$1,351,832,409	\$1,313,742,798	\$1,314,437,952	\$1,322,643,938	\$1,388,660,312	\$1,393,777,695	\$1,620,788,542	\$1,704,864,429	\$1,786,785,493	\$1,871,078,322

Capital Budget											
City of Baltimore	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$19,000,000	27,500,000
Alcohol Tax Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State of Maryland	\$36,800,000	\$37,500,000	\$37,303,000	\$52,553,000	\$26,570,000	\$27,769,000	\$26,978,000	\$29,276,000	\$29,276,000	\$25,807,862	26,603,000
Total Capital Budget	\$53,800,000	\$54,500,000	\$54,303,000	\$69,553,000	\$45,570,000	\$46,769,000	\$45,978,000	\$48,276,000	\$48,276,000	\$44,807,862	\$54,103,000

Difference FY25 vs. FY26			
City of Baltimore	-	\$3.9 million	more than FY25
State of Maryland	-	\$92.5 million	more than FY25
Fund Balance	-	\$6.854 million	less than FY25
Federal	-	\$6.794 million	less than FY25
Other	-	\$1.519 million	more than FY25
Overall Total.....		\$84.3 million	more than FY25
Capital Budget			
City of Baltimore	-	\$8.5 million	more than FY25
State of Maryland		\$795,138 thousand	more than FY25
Overall Total.....		\$9.295 million	more than FY25

Monday, June 2, 2025

6:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volume I: Page 407
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Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS)

Public schools in Maryland are funded by both local governments and the State. Prior to Fiscal 2023, local government contributions were determined by Maintenance of Effort (MOE), a formula that required appropriating at least the same level of funding on a per pupil basis as the prior year. In 2020, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, commonly referred to as Kirwan, which implemented the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, or the Kirwan Commission. The goal of the Kirwan Commission was to establish a new funding formula for school funding across Maryland to address five key policy priorities: early childhood education, high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, equitable access to resources, and accountability.

The Blueprint dramatically changed the education funding formula in Maryland and will continue to significantly impact the City's required contribution to City Schools. Under the Blueprint, local governments are required to contribute whichever amount is greater of either MOE or the combination of local share aid formulas. The local share funding formulas are based on student enrollment data, specifically students receiving free and reduced meals, English language learners, students in special education programs, and pre-kindergarten enrollment; local wealth, which is based on county property values and personal income; and education funding provided in the prior fiscal year. The formula aims to reduce the burden on less wealthy jurisdictions by providing concentration of poverty grants and the Education Effort Adjustment, which provides additional relief to jurisdictions with local share requirements that are a larger proportion of their wealth when compared with the state average.

City of Baltimore
Council Bill 25-0075
(First Reader)

Introduced by: The Council President
At the request of: Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Introduced and read first time: May 15, 2025
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: None

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

**Operating Budget for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026**

FOR the purpose of approving the budget estimated to be needed for the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners for operating programs during Fiscal 2026; providing for certification of the approved budget to the State Superintendent of Schools; and providing for a special effective date.

BY authority of
Article – Education
Section(s) 5-102
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the following amounts or so much thereof as shall be sufficient are hereby approved from the amounts estimated to be available in the designated funds during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

**Baltimore City Public School System
Operating Budget**

General Fund Expenses:

Schools	\$ 1,093,065,326
Board of School Commissioners	\$ 1,982,680
Chief Executive Officer	\$ 6,389,934
Office of Legal Counsel	\$ 4,090,492
Chief of Communications & Community Engagement Officer	\$ 6,291,815
Human Capital Officer	\$ 9,824,254

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

Council Bill 25-0075

1	Achievement and Accountability Office.	\$ 4,903,151
2	Chief of Schools Office	\$ 27,566,040
3	Chief Academic Officer:	
4	Strategy and Compliance	\$ 5,328,129
5	Teaching and Learning	\$ 10,109,434
6	College & Career Readiness	\$ 3,291,718
7	Specialized Services	\$ 57,763,221
8	Early Learning.	\$ 2,492,812
9	Chief Operating Officer	\$ 109,797,013
10	Chief Financial Officer	\$ 3,891,288
11	Chief Technology Officer	\$ 24,535,067
12	Undistributed Fringe Benefits.	\$ 67,837,045
13	Debt Service	\$ 7,660,080
14	Contingency Reserve	\$ 6,500,000
15	Utilities	\$ 35,009,927
16	General Funds Capital Projects.	\$ 20,000,000
17	External Assignments	\$ 2,066,579
18	Vacancy Factor	\$ (-10,000,000)
19	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 1,500,396,005
20	Special Revenue Fund Expenses:	
21	Title I Part A	\$ 71,462,388
22	IDEA Part B	\$ 26,008,888
23	IDEA Part B – Pre-School	\$ 744,693
24	Career and Technology Educations (Perkins).	\$ 1,777,065
25	Title IV Part A.	\$ 5,483,215
26	Public Health Services Act – Aides	\$ 354,500
27	McKinney–Vento Homeless.	\$ 495,000
28	Third Party Billing	\$ 8,000,000
29	Medical Assistance – Infants and Toddlers	\$ 15,000
30	Title I – Part D Neglected and Delinquent	\$ 294,000
31	Title I – School Improvement Grant (1003 a).	\$ 2,141,680

Council Bill 25-0075

Title II – Part A Improving Teacher Quality.	\$	4,497,728
Title III - Part A Language Acquisition	\$	1,195,990
Fine Arts Initiative	\$	55,886
PTECH	\$	423,000
Judy Hoyer – Moravia Park	\$	660,000
Judy Hoyer – John Eager Howard.	\$	330,000
Judy Hoyer Enhancement	\$	3,630,000
Concentration of Poverty	\$	165,601,872
Struggling Learners.	\$	5,885,392
Strausberg Children’s Cable Education	\$	242,000

Total Special Revenue Fund Expenses \$ 299,298,297

Total Enterprise Fund Expenses \$ 71,384,020

Total Baltimore City Public School System Expenses. \$ 1,871,078,322

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the foregoing amounts in summary are funded from the following sources:

City of Baltimore	\$	390,502,686
State of Maryland	\$	1,254,618,093
Federal.	\$	197,945,870
Fund Balance.	\$	15,654,240
Other	\$	12,357,433

Total \$ 1,871,078,322

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Capital Budget of Baltimore City Public School System consists of \$54,103,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Sources of these funds are \$27,500,000 from City of Baltimore General Obligation Bonds and \$26,603,000 from the State of Maryland.

Total Capital Projects. \$ 54,103,000

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That when enacted, this Resolution shall be certified to the State Superintendent of Schools.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution takes effect July 1, 2025.