

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Shanaysha M. Sauls, Ph.D.
Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners

Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

July 28, 2014

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

**RE: Position Statement
City Council Bill 14-0172R**

Dear Council President Young:

On May 12, 2014 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill calling on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to ensure that the school system's International Baccalaureate and Ingenuity Project programs are fully funded.

City Schools is committed to providing a diverse academic portfolio to meet the needs of all of our students, including those who are advanced and/or gifted and talented. Both the Ingenuity Project and the International Baccalaureate continue to be valued partners in this work. Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) has formed a panel of key stakeholders who are working in concert with the Coordinator of Advanced Learning for City Schools and the Educational Specialist for Advanced Learning for City Schools to develop a comprehensive plan for identifying, educating and supporting gifted and advanced learners throughout Baltimore City.

City Schools has continued to fund both the Ingenuity Project and the International Baccalaureate at historical levels. In addition, we are exploring the possibility and expense of adding another school for advanced learner programs, which will be discussed during City Schools' testimony on September.

In summary, I can assure you that City Schools recognizes its obligation to all of our students, including our gifted and advanced learners. As requested, our Chief Financial Officer, Chief Academic Officer and I will be available to discuss our plans in more detail at the City Council hearing to be held on September 17, 2014. Thank you for inviting City Schools to be a part of this process.

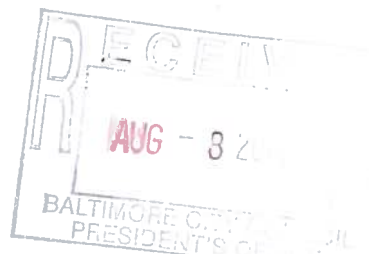
Sincerely,



Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

C: Donald Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer
Linda Chen, Chief Academic Officer

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