

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0177R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Scott, Stokes, Branch, Spector,
Reisinger, Henry, Holton, Clarke, Curran, Cole, Mosby

Introduced and read first time: June 16, 2014

Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Complete Education in Baltimore City Public Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that Baltimore City Public Schools report to the City Council on
4 whether a complete education is being provided to students in City public schools, the
5 availability of arts education and physical education in our schools, and the extent to which
6 students have access to vigorous and broad educational opportunities as part of their core
7 curriculum.

8 **Recitals**

9 A focus on basic education that leaves arts education and physical education aside ignores the
10 competencies demanded by the complex, modern world in which Baltimore City Public Schools
11 students are expected to thrive. This modern world requires leaders that are innovative, creative,
12 and have received a strong, broad, complete education from a young age.

13 An Afro article dated May 1, 2014 quoted former assistant state superintendent Richard
14 Deasy as explaining that “The arts...instill capacities that are broadly transferable to other areas
15 of life. For example, imagination, creativity, and innovation are all central to entrepreneurship
16 and thus economic vibrancy.” As recently as April 2014, advocates told the Baltimore Sun that
17 “the arts – which include music, art, theater and dance – have fallen to the bottom of the district’s
18 budgets and priority lists, leaving many children with sparse access to such classes”.

19 A Baltimore City Health Department report from 2013 noted 26 percent of Baltimore City’s
20 children are obese and that the youngest children (pre-K and Kindergarten aged children) are
21 experiencing the highest rates of obesity. Only 68 percent of students reported participating in
22 sports or physical activity at least three times a week. Additionally, the lack of safe and
23 accessible spaces for physical education in City schools is a noted problem.

24 A limited and incomplete curriculum is a disservice to the student population of the City of
25 Baltimore. Failing to provide a complete education, including an array of arts education and
26 physical education opportunities, leaves our students unprepared to thrive after graduation.

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
28 Council requests that representatives from Baltimore City Public Schools report to it on whether
29 a complete education is being provided to students in City public schools, the availability of arts

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 education and physical education in our schools, and the extent to which students have access to
2 vigorous and broad educational opportunities as part of their core curriculum.

3 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
4 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.