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**BALTIMORE CITY**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Sheila Dixon  
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Brian D. Morris  
Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners

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

May 19, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear President Rawlings-Blake and City Council Members:

I am writing this letter in response to the request embodied in the Council Resolution regarding the feasibility of requiring students to pass a course in financial literacy in order to graduate from Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools).

While there is presently no course specifically dedicated to financial literacy in City Schools, the feasibility of incorporating such a course into the curriculum is currently being investigated by the Office of Academic Achievement. The following process has already been initiated:

- The Office of Academic Achievement met with the Maryland Financial Literacy Coalition and Project Hope in Fall 2008.
- City Schools is currently investigating the different types of financial literacy courses offered in Maryland, as well as other states (Spring/Summer 2009).
- Presentation to the Strategic Curriculum Committee regarding the feasibility of requiring a Financial Literacy Course for graduation (expected Fall 2009).

City Schools is committed to providing our students with the tools they need to be successful throughout their lives. Given the importance of financial literacy in that success, City Schools felt it was appropriate to initiate an investigation into the feasibility of requiring such a course for graduation. I have asked that the Office of Academic Achievement keep the City Council informed of our progress throughout the process.

Thank you for your continued support of City Schools.

Sincerely,



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



*Comments*

C: Dr. Mary Minter, Chief Academic Officer  
Dawana Sterrette, Legislative Liaison  
City Council Members

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