

**ENROLLED**

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
ORDINANCE  
Council Bill 25-0002**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Conway

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

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable, with Amendments

Council action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2025

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**Study and Report – Absences in Baltimore City Schools**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ requesting the Baltimore City Public School System (“City Schools”) to prepare a report exploring the causes of student absences to better identify solutions to address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school; requiring City Schools to collaborate with certain City agencies to propose recommendations to address the root causes of unexcused absences found in the report; and providing for a special effective date.

**Recitals**

**SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That:**

- (a) The City Council would like to determine the root causes of student absences, both excused and unexcused, so as to develop policy recommendations that agencies can implement to address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school.
- (b) No later than 180 days after enactment of the Resolution, ~~City Schools shall the~~ Mayor and City Council request City Schools develop and submit to the City Council a report providing ~~detailed data and analysis on traditional public school absences~~ during School Year 2023-2024 (“SY23-24”) 2024-2025 (“SY24-25”) exploring the root causes of student absences both excused and unexcused, including: potentially including such factors as:
- (1) reasons for absences;
  - (2) date of absences;
  - (3) economic class of absent students;
  - (4) parent involvement in absent students’ education;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.  
Underlined italics indicate matter added to the bill by amendment after printing for third reading.

Council Bill 25-0002

- (5) sibling involvement in absent students' education;
- (6) typical type of transportation to school of absent students;
- ~~(7) type of school, such as charter, private, or public;~~
- ~~(8) location of school and absent students' homes; and~~
- ~~(9) any other data City Schools finds relevant to developing a full analysis of the causes of absenteeism.~~

(7) HOUSING INSTABILITY;

(8) LANGUAGE BARRIERS EXPERIENCED BY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND

(9) ANY OTHER DATA CITY SCHOOLS FINDS RELEVANT TO DEVELOPING A FULL ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF ABSENTEEISM.

(c) The report ~~shall further~~ is requested to further include Baltimore City Schools' efforts to stem chronic absenteeism by:

- (1) examining SY23-24 attendance data to understand the demographic, economic, and geographic distribution of absenteeism and determine patterns in excused and unexcused absences;
- (2) identifying a sample of schools to perform data collection during ~~the fall semester of 2024~~ SY24-25 based on the analysis of SY23-24 administrative data, including implementing a data collection plan with sample schools;
- (3) meet with school attendance staff to assess and define challenges to addressing chronic absenteeism;
- (4) attempt to make contact with families and students to gather information about the reasons for student absence;
- (5) deploying a mixed method design to Fall 2024 data across a sample of schools to understand the most persistent root causes contributing to absences; and
- (6) collecting qualitative data from school attendance leads, adults who have a relationship with chronically absent students, and ~~families:~~ families; and
- (7) review the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") between City Schools and the Maryland Transit Administration ("MTA") and provide recommendations to update the terms of the MOU to better address student needs.

~~(d) City Schools shall~~ The City Council shall invite City Schools to present the report at a City Council Hearing.

**Council Bill 25-0002**

1       ~~(e) (d) When developing the report, City Schools will collaborate with~~ No later than 180  
2       days after the hearing, the Baltimore Police Department, Mayor's Office of Children  
3       and Family Success, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement,  
4       Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services,  
5       Mayor's Office of African-American Male Engagement, Mayor's Office of Immigrant  
6       Affairs, Maryland Transit Administration, and the Office of the State's Attorney for  
7       Baltimore City to will analyze the collected data report and collaborate with City  
8       Schools to develop innovative solutions for how these agencies can support efforts to  
9       address the root causes of unexcused absences.

10       ~~(c) City Schools shall present the report at a City Council hearing.~~

11       ~~(f) Prior to SY25-26 City schools and the MTA are requested to execute a new MOU~~  
12       informed by the recommendations of this study, prior to SY25-26.

13       **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it  
is enacted.

**Council Bill 25-0002**

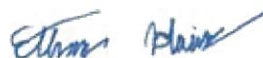
Certified as duly passed this 24th day of March, 2025



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President, Baltimore City Council

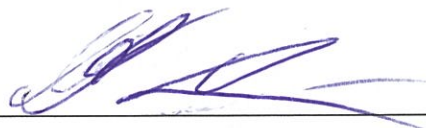
Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 24th day of March, 2025



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Chief Clerk

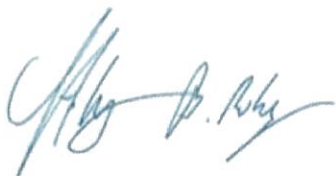
Approved this 1 day of May, 2025



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Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency,

this 25th day of March, 2025



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Chief Solicitor