

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bernard C. “Jack” Young
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

Letter of Support
Baltimore City Council Ordinance 20-0510
Trauma-Informed Care Task Force Composition – Revisions and Clarifications

May 11, 2020

As drafted, Council Ordinance 20-0510 proposes to add two educators with experience within the Baltimore City Public School System to the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. It also clarifies that one Councilmember appointed to the Task Force have substantial experience as an educator within the Baltimore City Public School System, as well as one Councilmember appointed to the Task Force have substantial experience as a parent within the Baltimore City Public School System. Finally, it requires the Councilmember with significant experience as an educator to serve as co-chair of the Task Force.

After careful review, Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) is pleased to express support for Council Ordinance 20-0510. It is critical to have the voice and perspective of City Schools educators present in the Task Force because our educators are with our students all day, every day and often have a particularly valuable and unique understanding of what our students are experiencing and how this affects both their learning and their overall wellbeing. Furthermore, our educators are especially well-positioned to provide insight into what teachers and other school-based staff need in order to be able to best support our students affected by trauma and promote healing through our schools and in our communities.

We respectfully request an amendment to clarify that the two educators be designated by the City Schools CEO.

The addition of two City Schools educators to the Trauma-Informed Task will assist with ensuring teacher voice is an essential part of the forthcoming critical discussions. For these reasons, City Schools respectfully urges a favorable report of Council Ordinance 20-0510.

For additional information, please contact City Schools Government Affairs:

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