

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 07-0291R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Mitchell, Kraft, Holton, Curran, Young, D'Adamo, Crider,
Middleton, Reisinger, Clarke, Harris, Spector, Welch, President Rawlings-Blake

Introduced and read first time: April 30, 2007

Assigned to: Education Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – High School Assessments**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School
4 System to brief the Baltimore City Council regarding how the system is preparing students to
5 pass the High School Assessments that will be a requirement for graduation beginning in
6 2009.

7 **Recitals**

8 The High School Assessments, or HSAs, are four exams—one each in algebra/data analysis,
9 biology, government, and English—that all students, starting with students who entered grade 9
10 in 2005, must take and pass in order to graduate. The HSA exams are based on the Maryland
11 High School Core Learning Goals, which were incorporated into Maryland's public school
12 curricula in the 1990s. Students take each HSA exam as they complete the related course.
13 Passing the HSAs is only one of Maryland's high school graduation requirements. Students must
14 also earn state-specified credits, fulfill the state's service-learning and attendance requirements,
15 and complete any additional requirements of the local school system.

16 The Maryland State Department of Education has provided parents with a list of things they
17 can do to encourage achievement from their children. The list includes encouraging children to
18 take challenging courses, making school a priority, set the example by achieving yourself,
19 encouraging children to study at home, and becoming more involved in the daily life of a child.

20 The goal of education should not only be to teach our kids, but to also help create a society
21 the values academic achievement. Teenagers sometimes ridicule kids who make an effort in
22 school. Children also pick up negative messages about achievement from television, movies,
23 music, and even casual adult conversation. The values we instill will help our children stand up
24 to outside pressure. Support can also be enlisted from other people such as teachers, or any other
25 person that a child may admire or come to admire. All of us can encourage student achievement.
26 Employers can pay more attention to courses taken when hiring young workers. Educators can
27 help people understand why certain courses are important and why high standards are necessary.
28 Community groups can set up programs to recognize high-achieving young people. The whole
29 nation benefits when students learn more and become more productive citizens.

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

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1 The preparation that students get studying for the High School Assessments will not only
2 help them pass the exams, but will also help them prepare for the rest of their lives. The
3 Baltimore City School System needs to start preparing students for the 2009 High School
4 Assessments now, so that when test time comes, our students are prepared not only for the
5 exams, but also for what opportunities they will find when they graduate from high school.
6 Hopefully, by having parents, teachers, and students all work together, our students will not only
7 pass the High School Assessments with ease, but will go on to become the leaders that will carry
8 our City and State further into the 21st century.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
10 Body requests the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System to brief
11 the Baltimore City Council regarding how the system is preparing students to pass the High
12 School Assessments that will be a requirement for graduation beginning in 2009.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
14 CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
15 City Council.