

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Commissioners*

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## **Baltimore City Council Bill 20-0515 Bond Issue – School Loan - \$38M**

June 4, 2020

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on City Council Bill 20-0515 (Bond Issue – School Loan - \$38,000,000), introduced by Council President Brandon Scott and Council Sharon Middleton on behalf of the Baltimore City Department of Planning.

The purpose of this bill is to create a debt, and to issue and sell its certificates of indebtedness and proceeds not exceeding \$38 million from the sale of bonds to be used for the construction, improvement, modernization, etc. of land/property owned by the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners and/or the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City.

### Baltimore City Public Schools Facility Needs

City Schools currently houses approximately 79,000 students in 153 buildings totaling 17 million square feet of facility space. The cost to appropriately address the district’s aging facilities is approximately \$200 million per year. This cost is calculated using the current replacement value of 4% of the \$5 billion total replacement cost per the 2016 State of Our Schools Report (21<sup>st</sup> Century School Fund). The four percent (4%) includes upgrades to existing facilities, reduction in the accumulated backlog of deferred maintenance, and altering existing facilities to address educational adequacy. This number does not take into consideration the deferred maintenance costs associated with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century buildings that were recently constructed/and or renovated.

### City Schools Capital Improvement Programs (CIP)

As illustrated in City Schools’ Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), recently reviewed by your staff, as well as in many other prior capital programs, City Schools’ annually submitted CIP requests only begin to address City Schools’ true facility needs of what is necessary to effectively and efficiently preserve our existing building portfolio.

City Schools’ FY2021 CIP requests included forty-two (42) projects totaling \$132 million in requested funds (\$113 million in state funds and \$19 million in local funds). The projected dollar amount of funds to be allocated to City Schools in the FY2021 CIP is approximately \$73 million (\$54 million in state funds and \$19 million in local funds) for twenty-one (21) systemic projects, one (1) media center renovation, and two (2) planning projects.

It is important to note that the \$54 million in state funds consists of \$28 million in “new” funds and \$26 million in “recycled” or contingency funds. Recycled funds are funds that were approved

by the state in previous CIPs for specific projects that were rescinded or cancelled due to various reasons (i.e. projects with bids over budget, partially funded projects, elevated construction costs, etc.). These recycled funds can only be reallocated to “B” rated projects, projects that were reviewed by the state but for which funds were not available that year.

We greatly appreciate the Baltimore City Council’s attention to the district’s facility needs and are happy to provide additional information, if needed.

For additional information, please contact City Schools Government Affairs:

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