

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 19-0157R**  
**(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Scott, Councilmembers Dorsey, Henry,  
Burnett, Costello, Cohen, Bullock, Clarke, McCray, Pinkett, Schleifer, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: July 22, 2019

Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City Public School System,  
Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Vocational Education in Baltimore City Public Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Executive  
4 Director of College and Career Readiness, the Interim Director of Career Readiness, and the  
5 Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer to provide information about vocational  
6 education programs in City Schools and how these programs will be improved.

7 **Recitals**

8 The Baltimore City Public School System’s vocational programs, known as the Career and  
9 Technical Education programs, are supposed to help students specialize in skilled trades such as  
10 nursing, information technology, construction, and advanced manufacturing. Through some of  
11 the programs, students can receive industry-recognized certificates that they can use to begin  
12 careers once out of school, from which the former students can make a decent living. In 2014,  
13 44% of City students were involved in a Career and Technical Education program. The  
14 programs are supposed to provide students with marketable skills that will help them begin  
15 careers that will provide them with adequate salaries to live and raise a family in Baltimore once  
16 they graduate. However, a recent audit of the Career and Technical Education programs found  
17 that the vocational programs are failing City students. The audit found that, six years after  
18 completing one of the programs, former students earned an annual median salary of only  
19 \$13,000, which is less than half the salary a single adult likely needs to live in the City. The  
20 report also found that only 10% of students district-wide satisfy all the course requirements for  
21 these programs by the time they graduate. In addition to generally not providing students with  
22 the background necessary for careers with decent wages, the vocational programs have also been  
23 distributed unevenly among City schools. Students at the City’s top performing schools have had  
24 access to programs for sought-after tracks that employers are willing to pay a family-sustaining  
25 wage for, such as computer science and advanced manufacturing, but students at other City  
26 schools lacked access to programs that would prepare them for successful careers. The  
27 Baltimore City Council is interested in learning how vocational education in City schools can be  
28 improved to prepare all students interested in participating in these programs for well-paying  
29 careers.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
31 Baltimore City Council invites the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the

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

**Council Bill 19-0157R**

1 Executive Director of College and Career Readiness, the Interim Director of Career Readiness,  
2 and the Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer to provide information about vocational  
3 education programs in City Schools and explain how these programs will be improved.

4 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the CEO of the  
5 Baltimore City Public School System, the Executive Director of College and Career Readiness,  
6 the Interim Director of Career Readiness, the Chief Achievement and Accountability Officer, the  
7 Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.