

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Shanaysha M. Sauls, Ph.D.
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners*

Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Bernard C. “Jack” Young
President, Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Position Statement
City Council Resolution 15-0226R

Dear Council President Young:

On May 11, 2015, the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill (Resolution), concerning Community-Economic Development in Struggling Neighborhoods, and how Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) is currently using community and economic development tools to foster positive community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods.

City Schools is promoting positive community change on multiple levels through a variety of programs and initiatives.

Community Development – 21st Century Schools:

The 21st Century Schools program will foster positive community change as an impetus to the creation of economically successful neighborhoods. All school plans will respond to the city’s Growing Green Initiative and Green Network Plan by meeting Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Silver level standards, or better. Other sustainability elements will support student and teacher productivity and introduce a new generation to environmental literacy by increasing natural daylight in classrooms, providing indoor and outdoor garden spaces, and implementing interactive energy and water-use monitoring. Additionally, the development of teaching kitchens will stress the importance of recycling, food composting and overall trash reduction.

Implementing these plans will have a strong impact on neighborhoods across Baltimore City as the 21st Century Schools program unfolds, improving community facilities and opportunities. Our schools will contribute through the availability of enhanced outdoor areas that incorporate native landscaping and provide uses as urban/community growing gardens. Athletic fields and walking tracks are incorporated where possible, and attractive storm management solutions are designed onto the school grounds for student interaction and understanding of these important natural systems.

Employment - 21st Century Local Hiring Plan:

In partnership with MOED, MSA, and State IAC, an integral part of the 21st Century Schools plan is the promotion of local hiring for the building of new and renovated schools. Plans include communication and outreach, training and job readiness, dissemination of publically available information, and an emphasis on minority and women-owned hiring goals in contracts for 21st Century Schools. In addition there is a component in the local hiring plan that encourages contractors to implement internship/work base learning opportunities for City Schools students.

The 21st Century Schools plan will have a significant economic impact on neighborhoods and communities across the city, with far-reaching benefits that will resonate long after the actual construction projects are completed.

CTE Expansion:

Through our Career and Technology Education (CTE) Expansion initiative, City Schools focuses on workforce development, by providing high school students with expanded opportunities to pursue a sequential technical and academic program of study that leads to advancement in a high-demand career field and the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized credential.

Working in partnership with members of the Career and Technology Education Local Advisory Committee (LAC), City Schools' CTE Expansion initiative has already created expanded opportunities in several areas:

- Advanced Manufacturing began at Carver High School in SY2014-15
- Computer Science/Code.org pathway began at Digital Harbor, Coppin Academy and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in SY2014-15
- Computer Science/Code.org will expand to Reginald F. Lewis and REACH in the 2015-2016 school year.
- Automotive Technician at Forest Park High School
- Computer Science at Patterson High School
- Environmental Studies/Natural Resources at Green Street Academy

The CTE Expansion initiative will have city-wide impact, as envisioned by the City Council in the Support for College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013.

City Schools strongly supports the goals of City Council Resolution 15-0226R, which we believe will benefit the children and families of Baltimore City. We will be pleased to testify regarding our efforts to further the development of positive community change and create strong, vibrant, economically successful neighborhoods. Thank you for inviting City Schools to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer