

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 12-0048R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Middleton, Branch, Stokes, Scott, Mosby,
Reisinger, President Young, Councilmembers Curran, Welch
Introduced and read first time: May 7, 2012
Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: June 4, 2012

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for Budget Action - Educational Grants - Restoration of Funding for Experience Corps

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Mayor restore funding to Experience Corps to its FY 2012 level of \$180,000.

Recitals

The Educational Grants Fiscal 2013 budget statement reflects a new strategy to engage more students in learning activities that increase school attendance, a key factor in academic success. Experience Corps is an award winning, evidence based model of intergenerational classroom assistance that is proven to improve K-3rd grade student attendance and academic achievement through one-on-one and small group tutoring and literacy training. While the goal of the new strategy is to reach more students in a tighter proximity, the proposed 84% funding cut to Experience Corps will actually result in a sharp decrease in the number of at risk students in Title I schools served by Experience Corps and its trained volunteer members.

WHEREAS, AARP-Experience Corps is an award-winning national program that mobilizes the experience, wisdom, and energies of adults over 55 to improve the academic performance and attendance of students in some of Baltimore's most challenging classrooms.

WHEREAS, Experience Corps was founded locally at Johns Hopkins University and since its inception in 1998, has grown to over 280 members that tutor and mentor pre K-3rd grade students in 22 Title I schools in Baltimore City.

WHEREAS, Experience Corps volunteer members are recruited from the communities they serve and complete 36 hours of training in literacy and library support, phonetics, and violence prevention. Each member spends an average of 15 hours / week in a single classroom working one-on-one and in small groups to provide literacy coaching and homework help all while developing consistent relationships and an emotional support structure for students at risk for poor attendance and academic performance.

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, Experience Corps members serve in the most challenging schools with students
2 at the highest risk for chronic absenteeism and future academic underperformance, including
3 schools with over 80% of students receiving free or reduced meals and an increasing enrollment
4 of English language learners.

5 **WHEREAS**, Experience Corps members provide the early, sustained, individualized attention
6 that is critical for these at risk children lacking the literacy skills, language development, and
7 positive attitude for learning necessary for reading success.

8 **WHEREAS**, Independent research shows that Experience Corps consistently boosts student
9 reading performance in these challenging schools in the key K-3 age groups. In a randomized
10 controlled trial of students in 20 Baltimore schools between 2005 and 2009, 1st and 2nd grade
11 Stanford 10 reading scores for students in Experience Corps classrooms improved 7.0% and
12 4.7% more than students in non-Experience Corps classrooms.

13 **WHEREAS**, These academic gains were similar for 3rd graders in 2010-11 as 6.7% more
14 students served by Experience Corps reached "advanced" and "proficient" levels in reading and
15 math on the Maryland Student Assessment.

16 **WHEREAS**, Experience Corps provides significant economic and health benefits to its
17 volunteer members by providing 220 seniors a monthly stipend that helps pay for basic needs.

18 **WHEREAS**, John Hopkins University research indicates that Experience Corps members
19 receive the added benefits of larger social networks, increased strength, decreased fall risk,
20 improved memory and cognitive function, and higher activity levels that enhances their physical
21 and psychological health.

22 **WHEREAS**, Experience Corps has depended upon funding from Baltimore City to provide a
23 high quality, evidence based literacy program for several years.

24 **WHEREAS**, Each dollar of Baltimore City funding in FY 2012 was leveraged for \$5.14 in
25 federal, state, and private funding.

26 **WHEREAS**, It is proposed that Experience Corps funding for FY 2013 be cut by 84% (a
27 decrease of \$152,000) and that loss of funding will likely result in the cutting of evidence based
28 Experience Corps services to several schools, dozens of members, and hundreds of Baltimore
29 City students.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
31 Mayor is hereby requested to restore funding to Experience Corps to its FY 2012 level of
32 \$180,000.

33 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, and the
34 Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.