

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*

**Marnell A. Cooper**  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

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

October 22, 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 15-0266R

Dear Council President Young:

On September 21, 2015 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill (Resolution), concerning the exploration of the efficacy of instituting a single identification card system to making accessing services easier and more convenient for young Baltimore City residents. Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) is currently piloting a One Card Student Photo ID on a limited basis. We are pleased to share the following information regarding current and future plans for a Student One Card.

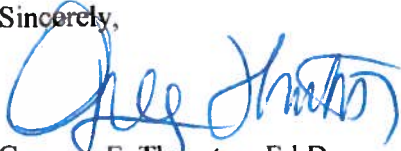
City Schools' facilitated this pilot with two organizations; the MTA and Access411. MTA supplied their Charm Card. Access411 supplied hardware, materials, training, data and technical support. Using Access411 technology, MTA Charm Cards and City Schools' student information school administrators matched student identification numbers with MTA Charm Card serial numbers to print a student identification card.

The One Card Student Photo ID was piloted as a student attendance and Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) student fare program at Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, Digital Harbor High School and Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School from March to June 2015. The pilot produced valuable data, providing visibility by date and time on a student's use of the MTA (boarding and transfers) and entrance into school. As such, a One Card system could be a useful tool in improving both the quality and efficiency of student transportation, as well as tracking and improving attendance. Such a system could also be a valuable component in improving the delivery of other services to the youth of Baltimore.

To date there are 35 schools or programs with 15,000 to 16,000 students ready to implement the One Card. Implementation is pending an agreement between City Schools and MTA on student travel times, trip durations and daily trip limits. In addition, we are currently performing an analysis of estimated costs to expand a One Card system throughout the entire district.

Thank you for inviting City Schools to participate in this very important process. We will be pleased to testify further on this program upon request, and will gladly participate in a meeting with the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Mayor's Office of Informational Technology, the MTA, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Finance Department and any other interested agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Thornton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" being more prominent than the last name "Thornton".

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

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