

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Chief Executive Officer

April 13, 2012

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 Bill (Resolution) 12-0024R

Dear Council President Young:

On February 12, 2012 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned resolution, calling upon the Mayor to double City funding to \$8.4 million in the City's 2013 budget for after-school programs in order to significantly improve opportunities for Baltimore's young people. These programs have been proven to increase academic success and school attendance, while also being effective in reducing crime in City neighborhoods.

Numerous studies have shown that after-school programming reduces the dropout rate of high school students by engaging them in positive activities. Such programming increases academic achievement by providing additional supports to students who need extra help, as well as enrichment opportunities to further extend student knowledge. Studies have shown that students who participate in after-school activities are less likely to become juvenile offenders, and that after-school activities provide an environment where students feel safe and are supported both academically and socially. Finally, after-school programming provides opportunities for students to engage in a variety of activities to which they would not have access during the regular school day, as well as academic programs providing remediation and enrichment in core content areas.

While all City Schools are required to offer after-school opportunities to students, budget constraints have forced many schools to reduce the range of their programs. Additional funding would allow schools to offer a wider array of academic and enrichment opportunities which will further engage and support our students. City Schools therefore supports this resolution, and will be glad to testify regarding our support. Thank you for inviting us to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer

C: Dawana Sterrette, Legislative Liaison
Linda Eberhart, Executive Director – Teaching and Learning

