

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Neil E. Duke, Esq.
Chair, Baltimore City Board of
School Commissioners

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

March 19, 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 12-0032

Dear Council President Young:

On February 22, 2012 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill regarding the establishment of a Public School Construction and Renovation Special Fund. The bill would make the Special Fund continuing and non-lapsing, while specifying its purposes, sources of revenue, and uses to provide increased support for the Baltimore City Public School System.

Baltimore City Public Schools' (City Schools) facilities are in a state of woeful disrepair. The current backlog for school construction and renovation has been estimated at anywhere from \$1 billion to as much as \$2.8 billion in order to create a more suitable, healthier and more supportive learning environment for our children. High quality school facilities have a measurable, positive impact on student learning, attendance and graduation.

Any dedicated, consistent and predictable revenue sources provided by Baltimore City can be leveraged to produce significant funds targeted at City Schools' facility issues. City Schools therefore welcomes the identification of any resources dedicated to school construction and/or renovation; we trust that Baltimore City has identified those resources that best fit within its financial framework.

City Schools will support this effort, and we will gladly testify to that extent. Thank you for inviting us to participate in this process.

Sincerely,



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

C: Dawana Sterrette, Legislative Liaison
Michael Frist, Chief Financial Officer
J. Keith Scroggins, Chief Operating Officer

