

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0002
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Conway

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Middleton, Torrence, Gray, Bullock, Porter,
Blanchard, Jones, Glover, Ramos, and President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City Public Schools, Police
Department, Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood
Safety and Engagement, Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, Mayor’s Office of
Homeless Services, Mayor’s Office of African-American Male Engagement, Office of the State’s
Attorney for Baltimore City

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 style="text-align:center">**Study and Report – Absences in Baltimore City Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Baltimore City Public School System (“City Schools”) to
4 prepare a report exploring the causes of student absences to better identify solutions to
5 address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school; requiring City Schools
6 to collaborate with certain City agencies to propose recommendations to address the root
7 causes of unexcused absences found in the report; and providing for a special effective date.

8 style="text-align:center">**Recitals**

9 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That:**

- 10 (a) The City Council would like to determine the root causes of student absences, both
11 excused and unexcused, so as to develop policy recommendations that agencies can
12 implement to address the most persistent barriers students face to attending school.
- 13 (b) No later than 180 days after enactment of the Resolution, City Schools shall develop
14 and submit to the City Council a report providing detailed data and analysis on school
15 absences during School Year 2023-2024 (“SY23-24”) exploring the root causes of
16 student absences both excused and unexcused, including:
- 17 (1) reasons for absences;
 - 18 (2) date of absences;
 - 19 (3) economic class of absent students;
 - 20 (4) parent involvement in absent students’ education;
 - 21 (5) sibling involvement in absent students’ education;
 - 22 (6) typical type of transportation to school of absent students;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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- 1 (7) type of school, such as charter, private, or public;
- 2 (8) location of school and absent students' homes; and
- 3 (9) any other data City Schools finds relevant to developing a full analysis of the
- 4 causes of absenteeism.

5 (c) The report shall further Baltimore City Schools' efforts to stem chronic absenteeism
6 by:

- 7 (1) examining SY23-24 attendance data to understand the demographic,
- 8 economic, and geographic distribution of absenteeism and determine patterns
- 9 in excused and unexcused absences;
- 10 (2) identifying a sample of schools to perform data collection during the fall
- 11 semester of 2024 based on the analysis of SY23-24 administrative data,
- 12 including implementing a data collection plan with sample schools:
- 13 (3) meet with school attendance staff to assess and define challenges to addressing
- 14 chronic absenteeism;
- 15 (4) attempt to make contact with families and students to gather information about
- 16 the reasons for student absence;
- 17 (5) deploying a mixed method design to Fall 2024 data across a sample of schools
- 18 to understand the most persistent root causes contributing to absences; and
- 19 (6) collecting qualitative data from school attendance leads, adults who have a
- 20 relationship with chronically absent students, and families.

21 (d) When developing the report, City Schools will collaborate with the Baltimore Police
22 Department, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Mayor's Office of
23 Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, Mayor's Office of Employment Development,
24 Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, Mayor's Office of African-American Male
25 Engagement, and the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City to analyze the
26 collected data and develop innovative solutions for how these agencies can support
27 efforts to address the root causes of unexcused absences.

28 (e) City Schools shall present the report at a City Council hearing.

29 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
30 enacted.