

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 11-0249R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Middleton, Cole, Kraft, Holton, Branch, Welch,  
Reisinger, Stokes, President Young, Councilmember Spector

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2011

Assigned to: Education Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Community Schools Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of calling on the Education Committee of the Baltimore City Council to  
4 convene a hearing with all interested parties to examine the current status of Baltimore City's  
5 Community Schools Initiative, and to determine how the City can best continue or expand its  
6 current level of support for the Initiative.

7 **Recitals**

8 Community Schools are a strategy to leverage and direct services to children and their  
9 families right in their own neighborhood school. Baltimore currently has 18 Community  
10 Schools, funded by the City of Baltimore and City Schools. Each of these schools has a  
11 dedicated staffperson whose job it is to identify and coordinate volunteers and supportive  
12 services that allow students to perform better and create stronger schools and neighborhoods.

13 Partnerships between communities and schools connect children with the services they need.  
14 Last year, Community Schools coordinated 404 local partnerships with schools, providing  
15 services worth over \$8.5 million at a cost of \$1.1 million. This includes vision and dental  
16 screenings, tutoring and mentoring, enriching extracurricular activities, art and music instruction,  
17 direct food aid to families, and more.

18 Community Schools respond to the societal factors, family circumstances, poverty, and  
19 health problems that can affect the academic success or failure of our children.

20 Most Americans recognize that these factors, usually thought of as outside of a school's  
21 control, can greatly influence the success or failure of students. All schools know these factors  
22 must be dealt with. Community Schools have the ability to take action to bring a wide range of  
23 opportunities and supports to young people.

24 In these difficult financial times more and more families are struggling with serious problems  
25 that, unchecked, could make it much more difficult for their children to achieve their long term  
26 hopes and dreams. Fortunately, many government and private programs exist to aid families  
27 with these problems. Community schools is a deliberate model to connect services with children  
28 and help families to use education as the key to break out of a crushing cycle of poverty.

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

## Council Bill 11-0249R

1 Community Schools seek to uplift whole neighborhoods by bringing the full range of public  
2 and private resources to bear on the critical problems that serve as barriers to the long term  
3 success of their youngest and most vulnerable residents. In order to build on these efforts and  
4 maximize their impact, it is important to note national research on the Community Schools  
5 successful model of public-private partnerships, examine their successes, and measure the  
6 potential they hold to efficiently bring services to the students and families who need them. In  
7 tight funding times, we must maintain the strategies that best harness the resources of our  
8 non-profit, business, and higher education sectors, as well as citizen volunteers, to help students  
9 succeed.

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
11 Council calls on the Education Committee of the Baltimore City Council to convene a hearing  
12 with all interested parties to examine the current status of Baltimore City's Community Schools  
13 Initiative, and to determine how the City can best continue or expand its current level of support  
14 for this Initiative.

15 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
16 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the CEO of the Family League of Baltimore City, the  
17 Community Schools Citywide Coordinating Council, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the  
18 City Council.