



Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Strengthening Our Partnership with the School Community

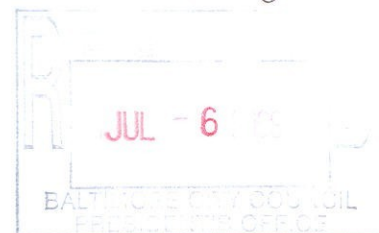
To: Angela Gibson

From: Dawana Merritt Sterrette 

Re: Gang Violence Reduction Hearing 09-0130R

Date: June 29, 2009

Attached is the information/report in anticipation of the hearing on Gang Violence Reduction Activities." If you need any further information, please let me know.



09-0130R

GREAT KIDS GREAT SCHOOLS

SCHOOL SAFETY AND GANGS

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

Jonathan Brice, Executive Director
Student Support

Marshall T. Goodwin, Chief
School Police

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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- Teacher training on gang related violence.
- Identify youth most at risk.
- Provide effective intervention resources for students.
- Partner with law enforcement to ensure safety and security of students, staff and school property.

OUR CRITICAL DATA: SUSPENSIONS

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The number of incidents that led to suspension decreased by more than 2,000 incidents in SY 2007-2008.

SY 2003 – 2004	26,295 incidents
SY 2004 – 2005	16,631 incidents
SY 2005 – 2006	15,031 incidents
SY 2006 – 2007	16,752 incidents
SY 2007 – 2008	14,744 incidents

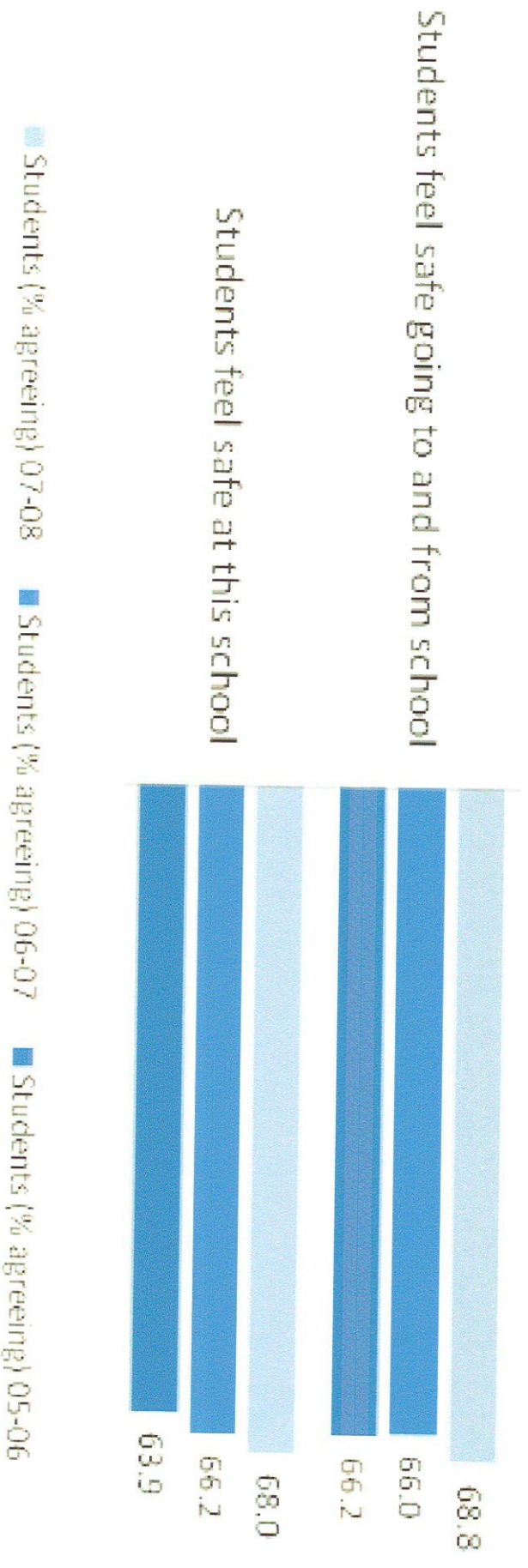
Data above were reported to the Maryland State Department of Education.

OUR CRITICAL DATA: CLIMATE SURVEY RESPONSE - STUDENTS

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Students, Parents and Staff continue to feel safer in our schools.

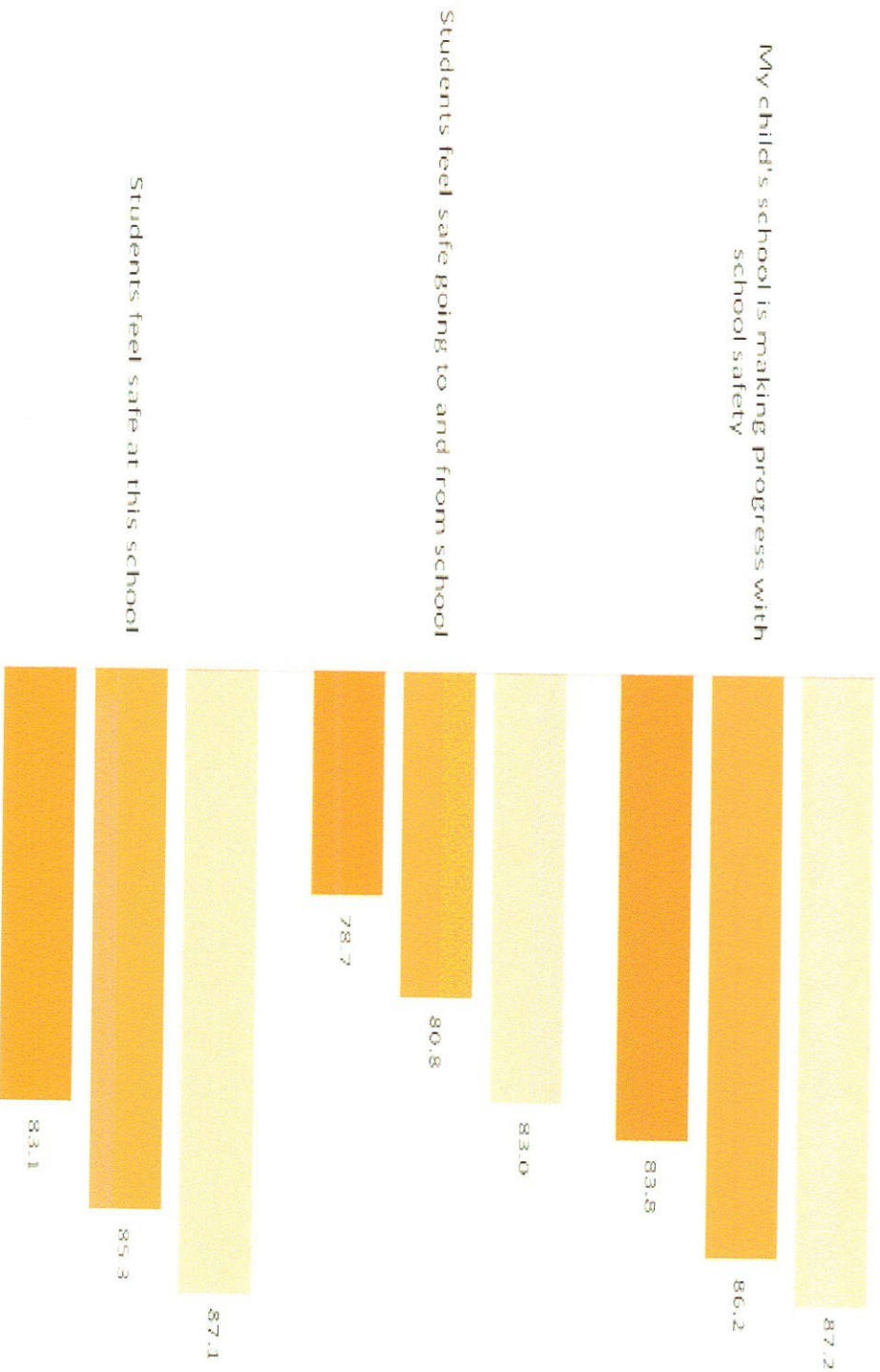
Figure 1. School Safety - BCPSS Student Response



OUR CRITICAL DATA: CLIMATE SURVEY RESPONSE - PARENTS

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Figure 2. School Safety - BCPSS Parent Response



OUR CRITICAL DATA: CLIMATE SURVEY RESPONSE - STAFF

Figure 3. School Safety - BCPSS Staff Response



OUR CRITICAL DATA: ATTENDANCE & TRUANCY

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As of 6/9/09 – UNOFFICIAL AND DRAFT:

- Attendance increased for City Schools students
- There were fewer truant students in City Schools this year

Student Attendance, Estimated

	SY0809 YTD Attendance %	SY0708 YTD Attendance %	SY0809 vs. SY0708 YTD
<i>ELEM and Prk-08</i>	94.1	93.9	0.2
<i>MIDDLE and HS</i>	85.1	84.4	0.7
<i>City Schools</i>	90.7	90.2	0.5

Source: City Schools ITD Department

Student Truancy, Estimated

	YTD SY0809	SY0708
# of students	6,512	7,191
% of students	7.9%	8.8%

OUR CRITICAL DATA: STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

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As of 6/9/09 – UNOFFICIAL AND DRAFT:

- City Schools appears to have roughly 1,200 fewer withdrawals (dropouts) this year than two years ago.
- About 237 students returned to City Schools through the Great Kids Come Back outreach.

Withdrawals YTD Through May

School Year	YTD Comparison
SY 05-06	3,673
SY 06-07	3,676
SY 07-08	2,703
SY 08-09	1,914

OUR CRITICAL DATA: YTD SUSPENSIONS & SERIOUS OFFENSES

Suspensions (as of 5/27/09):

- Overall decrease of 3,683 suspensions from FY07-08 (3,024 decrease short-term, 659 decrease long-term)

Serious Offenses:

- Serious offenses resulting in suspensions are down 15% compared to the same time last year.
- School Police serious offenses are down by 240 incidents compared to the same time last year (2,489 compared to 2,729).

OUR CRITICAL DATA:

GANG ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS

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City Schools has been successful in minimizing gang activities in schools (as of 5/27/09):

- 61 gang related incidents YTD in SY07-08.
- 40 gang related incidents YTD in SY08-09.

OUR RESPONSE: A FOCUS ON SCHOOL CLIMATE, PARTICULARLY AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Central Interventions:

- ❑ Revised Code of Conduct and Discipline Code.
- ❑ Student Support Teams in every school.
- ❑ Safe Pathways to School.
- ❑ Safety Checks.
- ❑ Gang Awareness Training and Support (in partnership with City Police and DJS).
- ❑ SafetyStrat meetings once a week.

School Interventions:

- ❑ Implement positive behavioral programs.
- ❑ Expanded mental health services, targeting middle schools.
- ❑ Expanded peer leadership and character development.
- ❑ Expanded youth leadership opportunities for middle and high school students (student government, student congress).
- ❑ Drug and violence prevention curricula and substance abuse prevention and treatment.
- ❑ School Police Dare program to several schools in the district.
- ❑ Grant with the Baltimore City Housing Department to provide prevention and intervention at four (4) schools in the Central and West Baltimore.

OUR RESPONSE: OFFERING SUPPORT TO STAFF

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- Gang Resist Education Awareness Training (G.R.E.A.T.)
- Teacher Training on classroom management, conflict de-escalation.
- Upcoming robust gang awareness, prevention, and intervention training program for principals.
- Police Training on students with disabilities.
- Bell Schedule Changes (e.g. Calverton).

OUR RESPONSE: GANG AWARENESS AND INTERVENTION

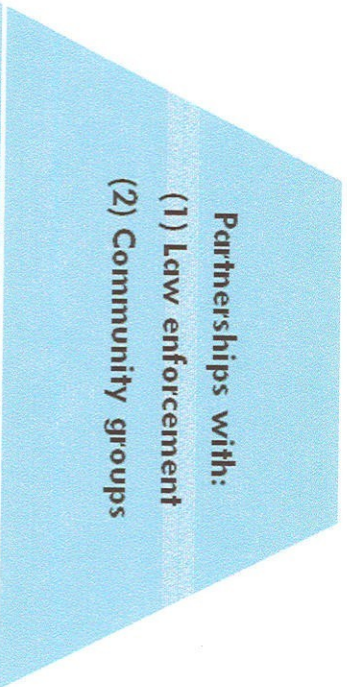
of schools

7 – 8 schools



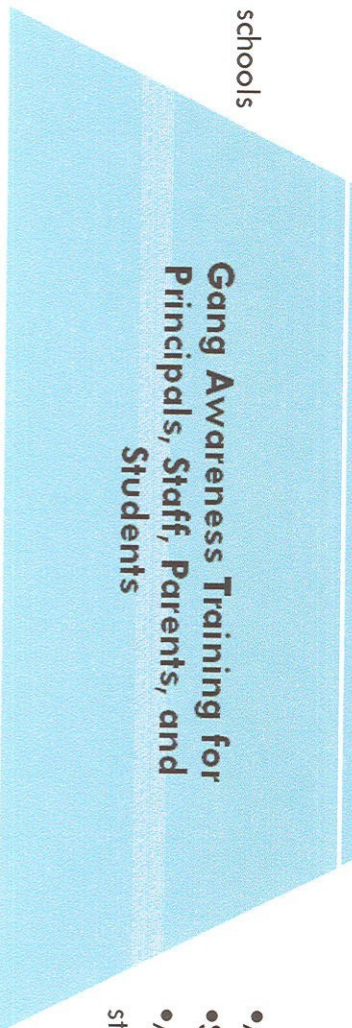
- Strategy**
- Safety Checks.
 - Safe Pathways.
 - Womb Works.
 - Structural Changes (Bell schedule).

20 schools



- Safety Checks.
- Safe Pathways.
- Quarterly Community Meetings.
- Structural Changes (Bell schedule).

All schools



- APs trained over summer.
- School Police trained.
- Awareness training for teachers, parents, and students coming soon.

OUR RESPONSE: INSTRUCTION THAT REACHES STUDENTS

- **Alternative Options Expansion**
 - Opened 5 new programs in SY08-09.
 - Expanded from 1,300 seats to 2,500 seats.
- **Transformation Schools (grades 6-12) & Charter Schools**
 - Opened 5 new schools in SY08-09.
 - Will open 9 new schools in SY09-10.
 - Expect to open a total of 24 over four years.

OUR RESPONSE:

INSISTING ON CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

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- New Code of Conduct.
- Suspension Policy Change.
 - Students are spending more instructional time in school – attendance and test scores have gone up in the City.
- Senior staff reviews ALL expulsions and assaults on staff.
- SafetyStat reviews discipline incidents citywide on a weekly basis.

OUR RESPONSE: ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

- ☐ **Volunteers.**
- ☐ **Community Support for Schools.**
 - Mentoring.
 - Dropout Re-engagement.
- ☐ **Community Schools .**
 - Climate.
 - Gang Mitigation (Forest Park).
- ☐ **High Expectations.**
- ☐ **Safe Routes to School (interagency).**
 - Calverton, Gilmore, 33rd St. (Mervo, City, Stadium), Harlem Park.
 - Homeland/Business & Entrepreneur coming up.

OUR RESPONSE:

EXPANDING SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

- Students identified as gang members are referred to the Baltimore City Police “Get Out the Game” Program.
- PBIS (Expanded from 32 to 44 schools in SY07-08 – expanding to 80 schools in SY08-09)
- Community conferencing.
- Community mediation.
- Mental health (Expanded from 96 to 103 staff in SY07-08).
- Student leadership opportunities.
- PATHS (Expanded from 2 to 6 schools in SY07-08).

OUR RESPONSE: EXPANDING SUPPORTS FOR STUDENTS

- ❑ Partnership with DJS, to provide staff in targeted schools with high DJS involved youth populations
- ❑ Individualized placement process of students transitions from DJS custody
- ❑ Coordination with DSS on services and group homes
- ❑ City Curfew Center
- ❑ Many other partnerships with Baltimore City, State's Attorney's Office, Universities, etc.

OUR RESPONSE: ENHANCING BUILDING AND SECURITY

- Cameras (24 schools)
- Metal detectors
 - 32 schools have metal detectors (additional 5 awaiting delivery)
 - 34 schools have wands (additional 2 schools awaiting delivery)
- Cooperative agreement with BCPD, MTAPD
- Additional 20 school officers funded in school year 2008-2009.

OUR RESPONSE: INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCIDENT REPORTING

- City Schools Fraud Hotline
1 – 800 – 679 – 0185
- City Schools Command Center
443 – 984 – 2000
- City School Police
410 – 396 – 8592
- Student Hotline
410 – 396 – SAFE (7233)
(began November 17, 2008)

QUESTIONS?

