

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 15-0232R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Welch, Henry, Middleton, Costello, Scott, Kraft, President
Young, Councilmembers Stokes, Clarke, Reisinger, Spector, Branch, Mosby, Curran, Holton
Introduced and read first time: June 1, 2015
Assigned to: Education and Youth Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Adopted: July 20, 2015

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Teaching Non-Violent Conflict Resolution in City Schools

FOR the purpose of calling on Baltimore City Public Schools to take steps to systematically integrate lessons in non-violent conflict resolution into its K-12 curriculum to help provide our children with the conflict resolution skills they will need to succeed in life.

Recitals

Perhaps the most crucial role that schools play is to help provide our children with the tools they will need to succeed in life. Teaching academic subjects such as math and science is the most prominent way that schools provide these tools, but they also provide crucial lessons about maintaining health, interacting with a variety of people, and how to work as part of a team, amongst many others.

Integrating lessons in non-violent conflict resolution into this varied curriculum could give our children another set of much needed tools.

Conflict is an inevitable part of living in any society, but how to handle it is a skill that must be taught and practiced like any other in order to be mastered. Children are not born knowing how to resolve conflicts, and unfortunately the world we live in often provides more poor examples of how to handle conflict than positive ones. This leaves too many children without a real chance to develop the conflict resolution tools that they need.

Schools can fill this gap by providing lessons in non-violent conflict resolution as a consistent part of their K-12 curriculum. The school environment provides many opportunities to teach and practice non-violent conflict resolution skills. These opportunities need to be seized in a thoughtful and systematic way through the adoption of a formal conflict resolution curriculum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Council calls on Baltimore City Public Schools to take steps to systematically integrate lessons in non-violent conflict resolution into its K-12 curriculum to help provide our children with the conflict resolution skills they will need to succeed in life.

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

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1 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the CEO of
2 Baltimore City Public Schools, the Mayor, the Governor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to
3 the City Council.