

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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City Council Resolution 21-0021R Building a Homegrown Public Safety Cadet Program

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Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) supports Council Resolution 21-0021R, which seeks to explore possibilities for establishing the best method to create a pipeline of homegrown talent into Baltimore City public safety agencies. The resolution specifically notes the importance of engaging Baltimore City high school students in an effort to employ local youth upon graduation.

With its focus on promoting local recruiting and hiring initiatives, City Schools believes this proposal could provide a promising pipeline for our young people. In fact, we have already been in conversations with representatives from the Baltimore City Fire Department and the Baltimore Police Department to discuss how the district can support City Schools students' readiness and pathway to success in these programs.

Please note that City Schools presently maintains Fire/EMT programs at Dunbar, Patterson, Frederick Douglass, and Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy. As part of our new career readiness plan, we will be sunsetting the Douglass program as of SY23-24. We are working very closely with the Fire Department, and we believe that a smaller number of programs with more focused resources will strengthen the remaining programs so that students complete the program with the needed certifications.

In addition, we currently have Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness – Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement programs at REACH! Partnership School and at Patterson High School. As part of our new career readiness plan, we will be sunsetting the Patterson program as of SY23-24, but we have prioritized keeping a teacher position that will remain as a liaison to the Police Department to help us build a stronger, better pipeline program.

Finally, Career and Technical Education may be one place for this program, but there are also other approaches like apprenticeships or shorter-term workforce training programs that may not require three years but could yield positive results.

City Schools is committed to working with the Fire Department and Police Department to determine the best way to move forward. We appreciate the Baltimore City Council's attention to Council Resolution 21-0021R and look forward to participating in further discussions.