



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Ren Southard, Director, Department of Planning
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	April 30, 2026
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Bill #24-0180 - Bond Issue - School Loan - \$60,000,000

**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

Once approved by voters, the Schools Loan will allow the City to issue debt for renovation, new construction, purchase, demolition of other improvements to school buildings and other property owned or managed by City Schools.

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

The Department of Planning (DoP) annually prepares a six-year Capital Improvement Program, the first year of which becomes the City's capital budget. DoP works with agencies that manage physical infrastructure and support improvements to the physical environment of the City. General Obligation (GO) bonds are a small but extremely important piece of the City's capital budget, used to match state and federal funds, fund the City's highest priority projects, and fund necessary projects for which no other source is available. Every two years, the City of Baltimore must get permission from voters through a ballot referendum to issue general obligation bonds (GO bonds). GO bonds are borrowed funds that are used for capital projects, including housing and neighborhood revitalization; school renovations and improvements; economic development; improvements to City parks, recreation centers, and other government facilities; transportation infrastructure; and key City institutions and cultural attractions.

This bill is consistent with what was approved by the Planning Commission in its public meeting on October 30, 2025, and so the Department of Planning recommends that this bill be approved.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Baltimore City Public Schools, the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the Maryland Stadium Authority are partnering to implement the 21st Century Schools initiative, a nearly billion-dollar initiative to renovate or replace more than two dozen school buildings. This loan authorization complements that investment by making critical systemic improvements, such as fire alarms, HVAC systems, and other urgent needs in schools that are not currently funded through the 21st Century Schools Initiative. This loan authorization also allows renovation and replacement of additional schools to take place, leveraging traditional State capital support through the Maryland Public Schools Construction Program. This City contribution is used to match annual State funding through

the Public School Construction Program for improvements to school buildings outside of the 21st Century Schools initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sara Paraniham, Capital Budget Director, at [sara.paraniham@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:sara.paraniham@baltimorecity.gov).