

# **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

## **Mission Statement**

*On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the Public Safety Committee will be responsible for matters concerning public safety, including, but not limited to, emergency preparedness, police services, fire/EMS, & their administrative functions.*

**The Honorable Mark Conway**

**CHAIR**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**4/21/2026**

**1:00 PM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

***LO26-0046***

***Legislative Oversight – Summer Youth Program***

# City Council Committees

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Sharon Green Middleton  
Paris Gray  
Antonio Glover

*Staff: Paroma Nandi  
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*Staff: Ethan Navarre  
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*Staff: Juliane Jemmott  
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*Staff: Marguerite Currin  
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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead – Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Honorable Mark Conway  
CHAIR

### Legislative Oversight Hearing

LO26-0046

*Legislative Oversight - Summer Youth Program*

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For the purpose of holding hearings with relevant City Agencies including, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement, The Baltimore Police Department, The Baltimore City Public School System, The Mayor’s Office of African American Male Engagement, & The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, The Mayor’s Office of Children & Family Success, The Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, The Baltimore City Youth Fund, and others to present information relevant to the City’s plans and opportunities for young people during the summer and how the City plans to ensure the accountability and safety of its young people over the course of the summer.

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### ***BACKGROUND***

Baltimore City provides summer programming each year to support youth engagement, academic enrichment, workforce development, and public safety during the months when school is not in session. These efforts are coordinated across multiple City agencies and supported through a combination of local funding, dedicated revenue sources, and external partnerships.

Baltimore’s youth population remains significant, with approximately [20.9 percent](#) of residents under the age of 18. In summer 2024, the City and its partners collectively provided approximately 40,000 summer program slots. Entering summer 2026, programming capacity remains below prior peak levels, with stakeholders previously identifying potential reductions of up to 12,000 slots compared to earlier years. This overall change is primarily associated with the expiration of federal COVID-19 relief funding, including ESSER and ARPA, as well as reductions and shifts in external philanthropic funding.

### **Programs**

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks (BCRP) continues to serve as a primary provider of [summer programming](#) through camps, recreation centers, extended-hour programming, and mobile recreation services such as Rec on the Run. Programming includes structured camps, evening recreation, and community-based activities designed to increase safe and supervised engagement during peak summer hours. BCRP has historically supported approximately 2,200 youths through

summer camp programming, supported through City operating funds, federal Community Development Block Grant funding, and other dedicated revenue sources.

Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) [provides summer learning and enrichment programming](#) for students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade including literacy, STEM, and arts based programs. In recent years, BCPS has offered approximately 12,000 summer program slots. Summer programming capacity remains below prior peak levels due to the phase out of ESSER federal relief funding that previously supported expanded summer learning initiatives and increased program capacity.

Youth employment remains a central component of the City’s summer strategy. The [YouthWorks program](#), administered by the [Mayor’s Office of Employment Development](#), provides short-term summer employment opportunities for youths aged 14 to 21. The program typically operates for approximately five weeks during the summer. In recent years, funding has supported approximately 8,500 youth job placements annually, though demand continues to exceed available positions.

Community based organizations also play a major role in delivering summer programming across Baltimore City. These programs are supported in part by [the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund \(BCYF\)](#), which provides grant funding through a dedicated property tax revenue stream. For summer 2026, BCYF has allocated approximately 2.9 million dollars toward community-based summer programming, along with additional support for collaborative infrastructure. Philanthropic partners, including those participating in the Summer Funding Collaborative led by Baltimore’s Promise, also contribute to systemwide summer programming capacity.

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### ***FISCAL NOTE***

The Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget maintains funding for summer youth programming across Baltimore City agencies, including Baltimore City Public Schools, YouthWorks through the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Baltimore City Children and Youth Fund, and violence prevention initiatives through the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement.

The budget also includes a [\\$650,000 transfer to Service 927](#): Neighborhood Stabilization to support the City’s Summer Youth Engagement strategy.

While overall investments are sustained, agencies report that the expiration of federal relief funding and increased program costs have reduced expanded capacity from prior years, resulting in fewer available summer program slots compared to peak funding periods.

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### ***REPORTING AGENCIES***

- Baltimore Police Department
- The Mayor’s Office of African American Male Engagement
- The Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success
- The Baltimore City Youth Fund
- Baltimore City Public School System
- Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks
- The Mayor’s Office of Employment Development

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Analysis by: Juliane Jemmott  
Analysis Date: 4/13/2026

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# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

*LO26-0046*

*Legislative Oversight – Summer Youth Program*

# Agency Reports



**BRANDON M. SCOTT**  
MAYOR

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# Spring + Summer Youth Engagement Strategy 2026

# History and Strategy Overview



# Baltimore takes a unique, comprehensive approach to youth safety and engagement during the warm weather months.

- In spring 2023 following a spike in homicide and shooting victims under the age of 18, Mayor Brandon M. Scott mobilized City resources to launch a comprehensive Summer Youth Engagement Strategy.
- The integrated summer youth engagement plan prioritizes our youth, ensures their safety, and provides alternative options for positive engagement.
- Baltimore's approach is unique, focusing on creating safe spaces for young people to enjoy their summer while using credible messengers to proactively engage youth and deescalate conflict.
- This approach is becoming a nationally-recognized model.



# The Mayor's Office and non-law enforcement staff proactively engage youth around the curfew ordinance.

## Baltimore City Code Article 19. § 34-3

No minor less than 14 years of age may remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 9 p.m. on any day and 6 a.m. of the following day.

From and including 12:01 a.m. on the Friday preceding Memorial Day each year through 12 midnight of the last Sunday of August each year, no minor at least 14, but less than 17, years of age may remain in or about any public place or any establishment between the hours of 11 p.m. on any day and 6 a.m. of the following day.

For the remainder of the calendar year, no minor at least 14, but less than 17, years of age may remain in or about any public place or any establishment:

- Between the hours of 11 p.m. on a Friday and 6:00 a.m. of the following Saturday;
- Between the hours of 11 p.m. on a Saturday and 6:00 a.m. of the following Sunday; or
- Between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. of the following day, on any other day of the week.

Minors accompanied by a parent, engaged in employment, emergencies, First Amendment activities, or attending supervised events are exempt. Minors should head home immediately after participating in any exempt activities.

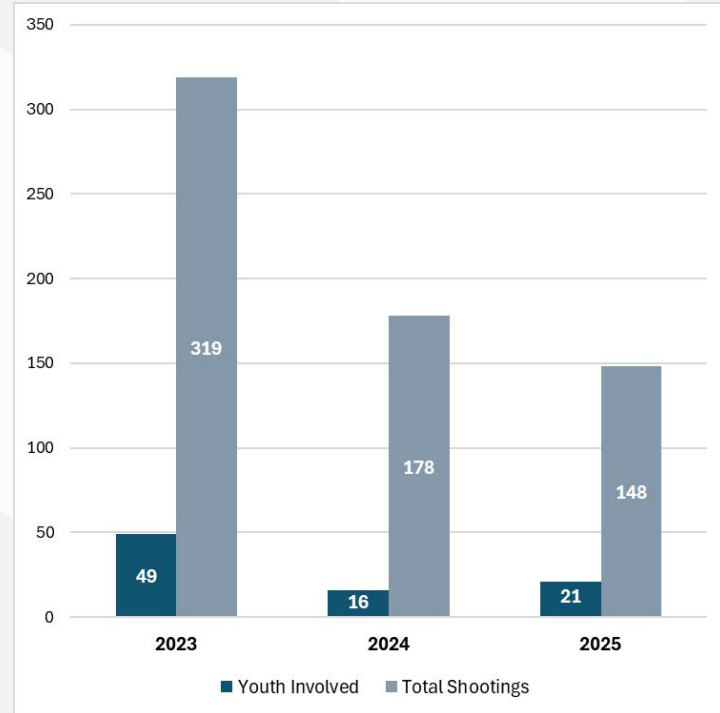
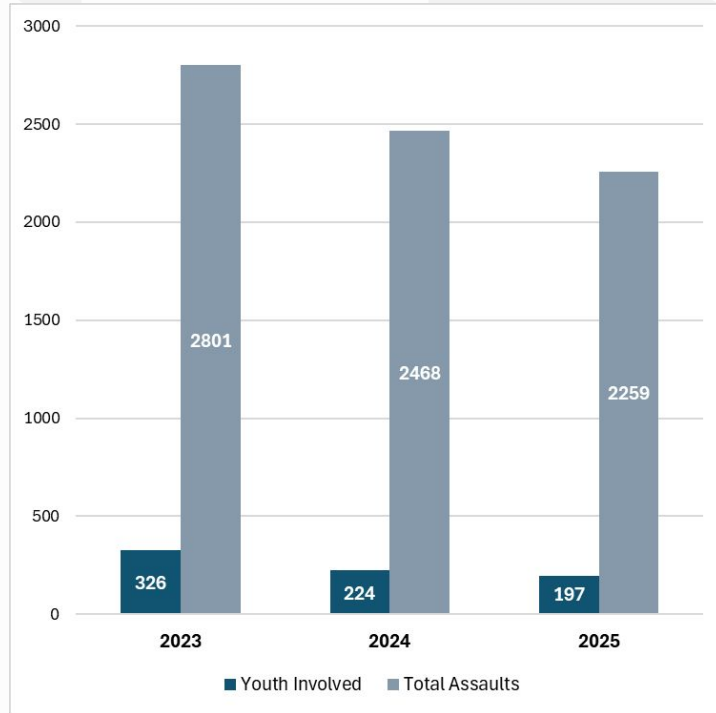


# Baltimore's 2026 Youth Engagement Strategy builds on work from the past three years, anchored by interagency partnership and core tenets.

- **Engagement:** Fun, proactive, safe activities for young people to do based on their self-identified interests.
- **Outreach:** Street-level relationship building and redirection from undesired behaviors, while making **connections** to needed services and resources.
- **Enforcement:** Accountability for young people participating in criminal activity that jeopardizes their safety and that of those around them.



# This strategy has contributed to **57%** reduction in youth as victims of non-fatal shootings and **40%** reduction in youth as victims of aggravated assaults from 2023 to 2025.



Victimizations of young people (under the age of 18) from April 1 through August 31 of each calendar year, CitiStat

# Thousands of young people benefited from Spring and Summer Youth Engagement efforts last year in 2025.

## Bmore this Summer PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES



1,400

Participants at the Mayor's Office Spring Break TeenFest

1,792

Attendees at the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs' Rock the Block community block parties

The Mayor's Back to School Event distributed and provided:

2,138

Backpacks

4,237

Meals to young people and their families



## Bmore this Summer PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES



8,604



YouthWorks job offers across 697 participating employers

1,313

Attendees to at least one of three Splash Fest teen pool parties



3,204

Young people attended a BCRP summer camp

223

Young people participated in Midnight Basketball games at the Dome in East Baltimore



## Bmore this Summer SAFETY ENGAGEMENT

977

Positive interactions with young people over the summer

113

Requests for services, including connection to critical resources, employment, housing assistance, and reconnection with school communities.



**Now four weeks into the 2026 Youth Engagement Strategy, Baltimore is already seeing positive trends.**

## 2026 Spring Break Successes

**1500+**

**SPRING BREAK  
TEEN FEST**

**82**

**YOUTH ATTENDED  
COLLEGE TOUR**

**400+**

**REGISTERED  
FOR SPRING  
BREAK CAMP**

**200+**

**SPECIALIZED TEEN  
ACTIVATIONS**

**15**

**COLLEGES**

Students engaged in immersive, firsthand experiences of campus life, academic pathways, and admissions—while building meaningful peer connections that support their long-term educational success.

**OUTREACH: 4 WEEKS**

**in**

**5**

**DAYS**

**32**

**SUCCESSFUL  
CONNECTIONS**

Financial Stability  
Employment Support  
YouthWorks ineligibility



**BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR**

# Youth Engagement



# During this activation, the Mayor's Office and BCRP host special events tailored to our young people's interests.

## ENGAGEMENT

- Teen Concerts
- MOCA Community Block Parties
- Teen Pool Parties at Druid Hill Park Pool
- Summer Basketball - Night Hoops and Midnight Basketball
- Late Night Rec - Select Recs Open Until 11PM



# Rec & Parks programming is specifically designed for young people to have fun in a safe, structured environment.

## Teen Pool Parties at Druid Hill:

June 26

July 3

July 24

August 7

### Baltimore Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL)

\*Ages 6-17  
\*Monday-Thursday  
\*Locations: Morrell Park, CC Jackson, Edgewood, Cahill, Rita Church, Middle Branch, Parkview, and Chick Webb

\*May 11th- June 18th  
\*6pm, 7pm, 8pm

### Midnight Basketball

\*Ages 18+  
\*Sunday  
\*Location: Dome @ Madison Midnight Basketball

\*July 12th- August 29th  
\*6pm-9pm

### B'More Night Hoops

\*Ages 13-17  
\*Friday and Saturday  
\*Location: Dome @ Madison

\*July 10th - August 28th  
\*4pm-midnight

### Craig Cromwell League

\*July 6th- August 13th  
\*Boys – Monday, Wednesday  
\*Girls – Tuesday, Thursday  
\*Location: Dome @ Madison

\*6pm-8pm



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

## ENGAGEMENT

# Youth and teen attendance at events and programming opportunities are growing each year.

## ENGAGEMENT

Program	2024	2025	2026 (Goal)
<b>Teen Pool Parties</b>	1,300	1,313	1,500
<b>Rec on the Run</b>	—	1,235 (across 22 stops)	1,400 (across 25 stops)
<b>Summer Camps</b>	2,220	3,204 (43 locations)	3,500 (42 locations)
<b>Weekend Hype*</b>	5,000 (*combined with Midnight Basketball)	6,900 (across 9 centers)	7,000 (across 7 centers)
<b>Midnight Basketball</b>	—	223	300



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

# Late Night Rec starts June 26th at select recreation centers, which will stay open until 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

## ENGAGEMENT

Beginning Friday, June 26 through  
Saturday, August 15

### Hours

Fridays

9:00pm-11:00pm

Saturdays

6:00pm-11:00pm

- Middle Branch
- Rita Church
- Greenmount
- Edgewood/Lyndhurst
- CC Jackson
- Cahill
- Chick Webb



# BCRP's 2026 Summer Camp spots are filling up quickly, but there's still time to sign up.

## ENGAGEMENT

Most camps start June 22, with some STEM camps starting earlier and some sports camps starting later. For more information, visit:

[baltimorecity.gov/bcrp/summer-camp](https://baltimorecity.gov/bcrp/summer-camp)



# SUMMER CAMP '26

CAMP MANIA! ALL SUMMER. ALL CITY.  
EVERY CENTER. EVERY CAMPER. EVERY VIBE.

Girls Basketball - Madison	31
Boys Basketball - Madison	13
Carrie Murray ages 5-9	FULL
Carrie Murray ages 10-12	5
Outdoor Rec - Inner Harbor	8
Tennis Camp - Druid Hill	10
Swim Camp - Callow Hill	1

STEM - Robotics	2
STEM - Coding	5
STEM - Circuit Threads	2
Golf	16
Aviation	8
Beauty - Collington Square	9
Volleyball - Middle Branch	15

Camp Baltimore	8 out of 23 sites have openings
Summer Fun	7 out of 10 sites have openings
Travel Camp	4 locations - FULL

Available Slots as of 4/20/26



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

# For 52 years and counting, YouthWorks continues to support employment for Baltimore's young people ages 14-21.

## ENGAGEMENT

YouthWorks continues its commitment to empowering young people by offering Baltimore City residents ages 14 to 21 a five-week summer employment opportunity. Participants gain valuable work experience while earning \$15 per hour for up to 25 hours each week.

### Summer 2026 Updates

- 11,855 completed registrations
- 650 employer worksites

### On the Horizon

- The youth application and document submission process has ended.
- Youth are currently being assigned to their summer worksite.
- Youth will receive updates regarding their placements late May-early June by mail and email.



# Youth Outreach



# This year, Safe Passage is expanding to support the safety of students commuting to and from Summer School.

## SAFE PASSAGE

Baltimore Safe Passage was launched by Mayor Brandon M. Scott to **increase safety amongst students as they travel to and from school.**



The Baltimore City Safe Passage Program is a citywide initiative lead by the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS). **Designed to reduce risks for students** during their commute, particularly those who walk to school, this **program provides designated routes with increased supervision and support**, including trained safety personnel stationed along the routes. The goal is to **ensure that students can safely navigate their way to and from school** without fear of danger.

## OUTREACH

- **Digital Harbor High School**
  - CBO- Movement Team
  - 7am-9am and 2pm-5pm
- **Patterson High School**
  - CBO-Redesigning Minds
  - 7:30 am-9:30 am and 2:00 pm-4:00 pm
- **Carver Vocational-Technical High School**
  - CBO- Movement Team
  - Time TBD
- **Paul Laurence Dunbar High School**
  - CBO- We Our Us
  - Time TBD
- **Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School**
  - CBO-P.E.A.C.E Team
  - 7:30am-9:30am and 2:00pm-4:00pm
- **Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School**
  - CBO-P.E.A.C.E Team
  - 7:30am-9:30am and 2:00pm-4:00pm

*\*Summer School sessions are Monday-Thursday  
June 29-July 30. Each site will have 5 staff members.*



# Since 2023, MONSE has led on-the-ground youth safety engagement with City staff and trained credible messengers, in coordination with law enforcement.

- The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) partners with the Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME), credible messenger and social work organizations like The P.E.A.C.E. Team and Redesigning Minds, and Baltimore City Schools Police to proactively engage youth on Fridays, Saturdays, and holiday evenings in the places they like to hang out.
- Staff engage in six core zones in the evening and early morning hours, focused on ensuring safety and making connections to resources.
- This is the 2nd year where the City has mobilized a 25-week activation that nearly doubles the 14-15 week activation of years past.

## OUTREACH



# This 25-week activation is focused on supporting the safety of Baltimore's young people and our communities.

**52**

Scheduled  
Evening  
Youth  
Engagement  
Days

## Evening Engagement: Spring, Summer and Fall

From March 27, 2026 - September 7, 2026

## Special Event Support

- Artscape – Sat., May 23
- Pride – Fri., June 12 and Sat., June 13
- AFRAM – Fri., June 19 and Sat., June 20
- July 4th – Sat., July 4
- Caribbean Fest – Sat., July 11
- Charm City Live – Sat., September 19
- Mayor's Block Parties – TBD (accounting for 7 events over summer)
- Mayor's Pool Parties – June 26, July 3, July 24, August 7
- Mayor's Teen Concerts – TBD (accounting for 2 events over summer)

**21**

Anticipated  
Special Event  
Support Days

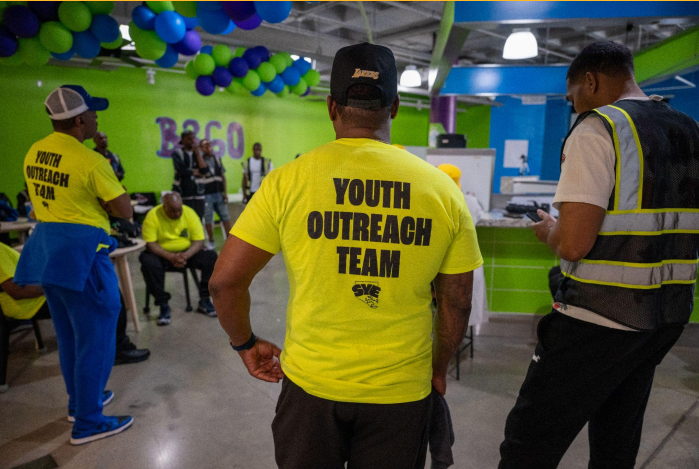
## OUTREACH



# Four weeks in, staff are already building rapport, tracking engagements, and connecting youth to critical resources.

## OUTREACH

- Since March 27, staff have documented over 150 positive interactions with young people as part of the City's non-traditional curfew engagement.
- We've seen consistent youth presence in areas like Rash Field Park, Inner Harbor, and Federal Hill Park.
- Staff have documented 66 requests for follow-up support and have conducted 32 successful referrals for services through MOAAME. These include:
  - Employment
  - Financial assistance
  - Health / mental health



# Enforcement



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

**While non-law-enforcement staff engage youth around the curfew and deescalate conflict where necessary, active coordination with and enforcement by School Police and BPD is necessary to ensure accountability.**

				<b>ENFORCEMENT</b>
Tier	Behavior/Decorum	Response	Lead	
3 Intensive (Few)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assault</li> <li>● Weapons</li> <li>● Smoking/drinking</li> <li>● Fighting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Empty containers</li> <li>● Citation</li> <li>● Arrest</li> <li>● Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Police</li> <li>● BPD</li> <li>● Liquor Board</li> </ul>	
2 Targeted (Some)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Large groups of minors out past curfew</li> <li>● Teenage parents with young children</li> <li>● Play fighting</li> </ul>	<p>“Either go home or”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Escort to Youth Connection Center (YCC)</li> <li>● Redirect to closest rec center that is open</li> <li>● Social worker one-on-ones</li> <li>● Phone call to families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outreach Teams</li> <li>● Social Workers</li> <li>● School Police</li> </ul>	
1 General (All)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Actively in space without an adult after curfew</li> <li>● Activity that is non-violent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use of proximity</li> <li>● Distribution of flyers</li> <li>● Informal conversations with credible messengers</li> <li>● Engagement activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Outreach Teams</li> </ul>	





# PARENTS: KNOW THE PLAN THIS SPRING & SUMMER BREAK



THE BALTIMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT ENCOURAGES PARENTS AND GUARDIANS TO STAY INVOLVED AND INFORMED WHEN TEENS ARE OUT WITH FRIENDS—ESPECIALLY WHEN LARGE GROUPS GATHER.



KNOW THE  
LOCATION



KNOW WHO  
THEY'RE WITH



SET A CURFEW



STAY CONNECTED



REPORT EMERGENCIES

Unsafe and unorganized teen “link-ups” have led to increased criminal activity, including fights, gunfire, and violence. Large gatherings can result in unlawful and dangerous situations, putting young people at risk of serious injury or death.

# The 2026 Youth Engagement Strategy balances the creation of safe, fun spaces for our young people, direct outreach, and accountability.

- This strategy balances engagement, outreach, and enforcement, ensuring our young people and city as a whole have a safe, enjoyable summer.
- This multifaceted, interagency collaboration is reflective of Mayor Scott's priority of investing in our young people and enhancing public safety. Funded for the past three years and built into the Administration's budget, this strategy continues to yield a large return on investment.
- Baltimore City continues to share the approach, successes, and lessons learned from this strategy with jurisdictions across the country.



# Thank you

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[www.baltimorecityschools.org](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org)

BALTIMORE CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

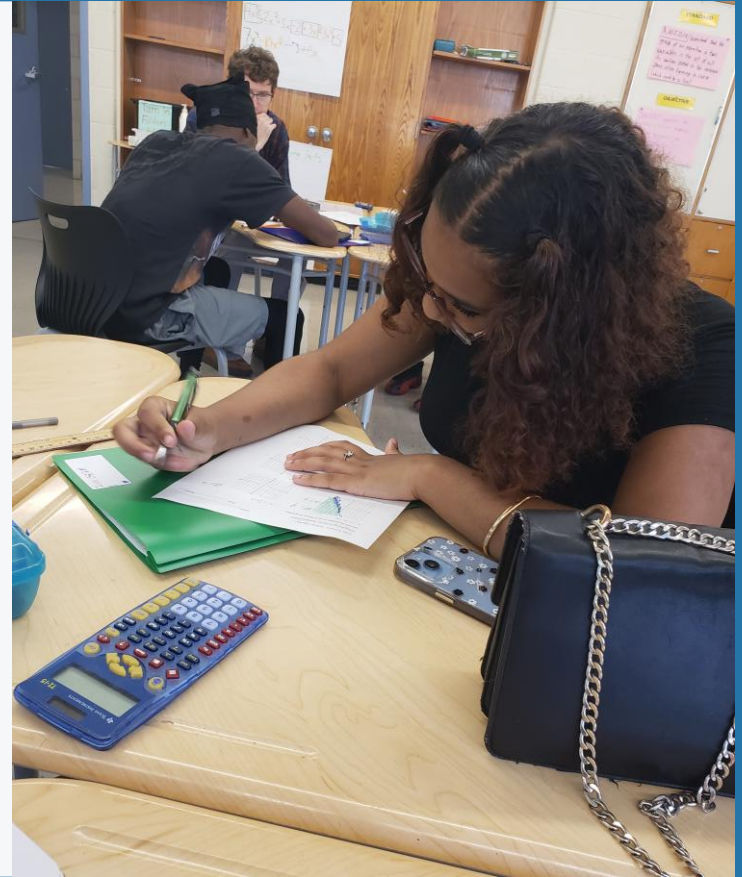
# 2026 Summer Youth Engagement Strategy

Baltimore City Council Public Safety Committee  
LO26-0046 - Legislative Oversight – Summer Youth Program



## The Power of Summer & Extended Learning Programs

Extended school days and summer learning programs are designed to promote student growth by offering opportunities for personalized academic advancement, enrichment experiences, and social-emotional development.



# Summer 2026 Learning Programs



**Summer 2026:**

June 29th – July 30

5 weeks (20 days)

Monday – Thursday; closed Fridays



Reduced Summer 2026 budget of ~\$6M from Summer 2025 budget of ~\$8M



Projected **10,350** seats available

# Summer Learning 2026: Planning Considerations



Considered attendance, fiscal impact, and student demographics to determine which summer programs to prioritize



Leveraged geographic data to optimize the placement of summer sites, focusing on hub sites to provide Food & Nutrition services



Aligned summer learning initiatives with MSDE's PreK- 3 Literacy Policy and Mathematics Policy



Prioritized programs which were able to provide full day programming

# District Led Programs at 19+ school locations



- Access 2 Algebra (A2A) & Physical Education Camp
  - (Combined with A2A) – grades 5-7
- AP Summer Academy – grades 9-11
- Bright Minds Academy – grades K-5
- Camp Curiosity (@ Judy Centers) – grades PK-K
- Fine Arts Camp – grades 5-11
- HS Credit Recovery (NEW original credit options) – grades 8-12
- HS Multilingual Learners Credit Recovery – grades 8-12
- Spanish Theater Camp – grades PK-11
- Engineer Explorers STEM Camp – grades 3-7
- Additional CTE Programs - grades 9-12
- Internships – grades 9-12

## Externally led programs will occur at 12 school locations

- Ailey Dance Camp – grades 6-8
- Ingenuity Project – grade 7
- ORCH Kids – grades 1-11
- Summer Arts for Learning Academy (SALA) PK-5



# Summer 2026 Credit Recovery

Offer students out-of-school-time opportunities to retake a course in which they were not successful and did not earn the credit.



Newly Expanded Original Credit Offerings for rising 9th – 12th grade students



3 In-Person District Sites & 1 District Virtual



CSI funding available for CSI School Based Credit Recovery Programs

# Summer 2025-ESY

21 Traditional ESY Sites

4 SALA ESY Sites

4 Separate Public Day School Sites  
(SPDS)

1,790 students enrolled



# Summer 2026-ESY

64% reduction in ESY sites

Sites will be placed within 4 quadrants

Expanded partnership with SALA for grades PK-8

Creation of new Site Support role



# YouthWorks Opportunities in City Schools

## **Programs students attend & are paid to participate**

- *Fine Arts Camp*
- *AP Summer Academy*
- *High School In-Person Credit Recovery Dunbar, MERVO, & Carver*
- *Some school-based credit recovery programs*
- *Industrial Recognized Credentialing Sites through Dent*

# Summer Meals: Food & Nutrition

USDA Summer Food  
Service Program (SFSP)  
is available at many city  
schools\*

All SFSP sites are open sites—meals are available to all youth, regardless of if they participate in a program

Summer 2025: Meals offered at 120 schools  
64% school-based programs  
36% district-planned programs

Summer 2026: As of April 16<sup>th</sup>, applications have been submitted for 53 schools *Deadline: Friday, May 22*

MD DHS will continue SunBucks/Summer EBT\*\* in 2026  
Families receive \$40/month per eligible child on an EBT card while schools are closed

\* Baltimore City Housing Department serves meals at many non-school locations throughout the city.

\*\* For more information please visit Maryland SUN Bucks: <https://dhs.maryland.gov/sunbucks/>

# Summer Meals: Food & Nutrition

<b>Participation in Summer Meals (June - August)</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Breakfast - Average Daily Participation</b>	5,133	4,427
<b>Lunch - Average Daily Participation</b>	7,733	6,907
<b>Total Meals Served (Breakfast + Lunch from June - August)</b>	308,776	283,372
<b>Total School Sites Offering Summer Meals</b>	118	120

## BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

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**Robert Salley**, *Board Chair*

**Ashiah Parker**, *Vice Chair*

**Emily Ames-Messinger**

**Andrew Coy**

**Ashley Esposito**

**Kwame' Jamal Kenyatta-Bey**

**Mujahid Muhammad**

**Amber Redwood Mullinger**

**Larry Simmons Jr.**

**Khalilah Slater Harrington**

**Zayra Chicas-Guzman**, *Student Commissioner*

**Yousuf Ahmad**, *Board Executive Officer*

## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

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**Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises**, *Chief Executive Officer*

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# Public Safety Committee Hearing

April 23, 2026



# Baltimore Children & Youth Fund (BCYF)

## A Public Commitment to Baltimore's Young People

- Created by Baltimore voters through referendum
- A permanent, protected public fund for youth investment
- Not a program--a public mandate

## Your vote. Your fund. Your youth.

- Ensures stable, dedicated funding for youth opportunities
- Expands access across communities and reduces barriers



BCYF Grantee Partner  
**Requity**



# Vision, Purpose & Investment Strategy

## Building a More Just, Abundant, and Creative Baltimore

- Youth have access to **opportunity, mentorship, and support to thrive**

### Grounded in:

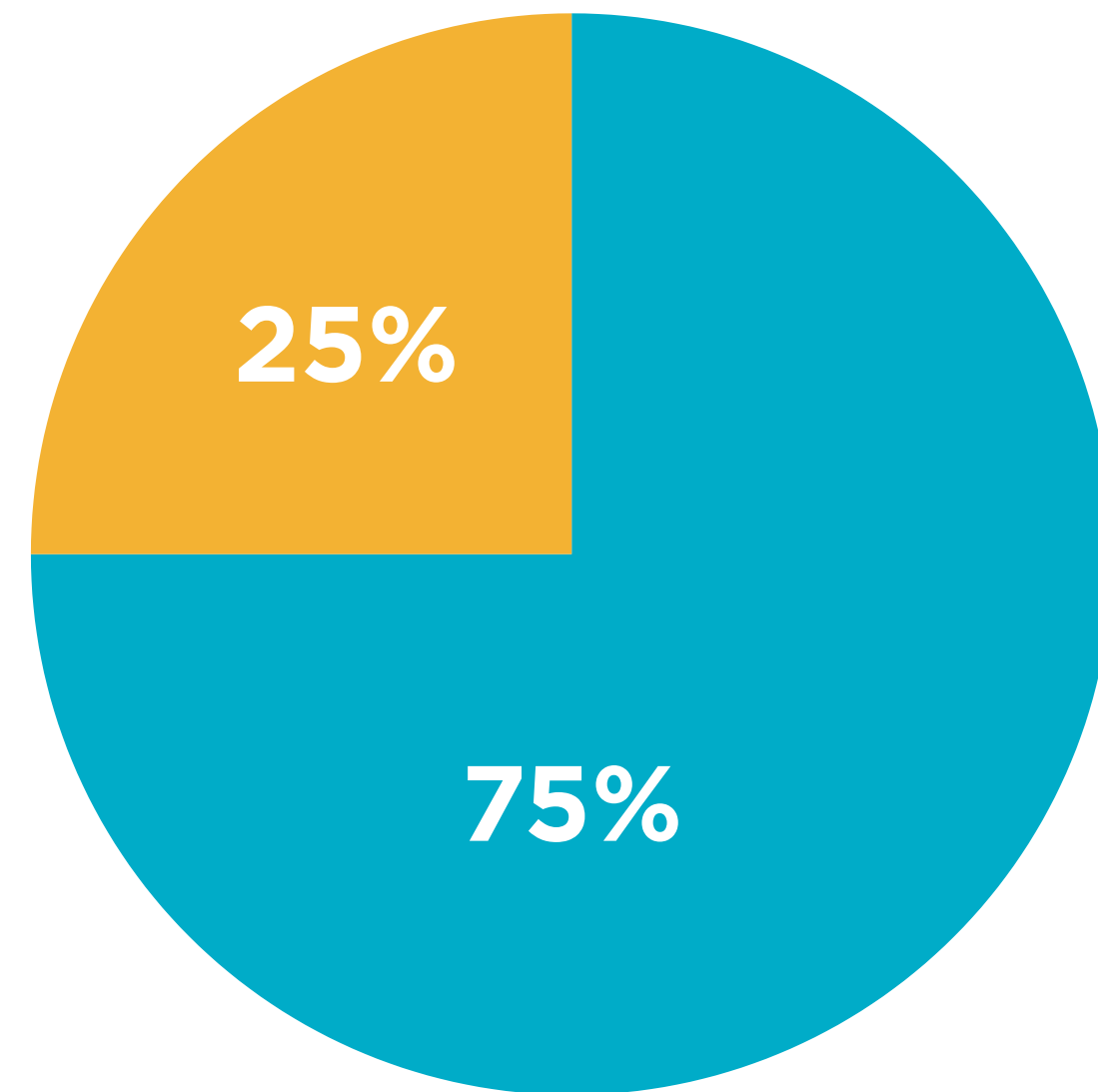
- Equity and community leadership
- Youth voice and participation
- Public accountability and transparency

### Why it matters:

Strong organizations → **safer, higher-quality programs**

### Dual Investment Model:

- **75% Direct Grants** → Youth programming
- **25% Capacity Building** → Training, infrastructure, support



# Impact, Scale & Accountability

## Delivering Results for Baltimore Youth

**\$40M+**

Invested Since 2020

**100+**

Organizations Supported

**17,000+**

Youth Opportunities

## Sustained Investment:

80%+ multi-year funding → staffing stability & program quality

## Delivering Results for Baltimore Youth

**~30% → 96%**

Compliance Increase

**2,500+**

Participants

**300+**

Hours of Training

## Who is served:

Primarily **Black and Brown-led, community-rooted organizations**



# How BCYF Delivers

## From Public Mandate to Youth Impact

- Grounded in voter mandate and public purpose
- Designed for transparency and accountability
- Invests in organizations and systems-- not just programs

### Result:

Stable organizations → **safe, consistent youth experiences**



BCYF Grantee Partner  
**B-360**



# The Enrichment Gap

## National Problem. Local Solution.

- Nationwide, **millions of youth lack access to structured summer programs**, with the largest gaps impacting Black and Brown families
- Research shows **low income students lose 2 to 3 months of academic progress each summer**, widening opportunity gaps
- **Cost is the biggest barrier to access**

## The Summer of Possibilities Fund is closing that gap.

**\$2M**

**Invested** to expand access across Baltimore

**30**

**Organizations funded**, reaching youth citywide

**Free, safe, and enriching programs** when youth need them most

**Because no young person's potential should ever be limited by gaps in access.**



# Summer of Possibilities Fair

## Connecting Families to Safe Summer Programs

- Citywide, family-focused event (**April 11, 2026**)
- **Over 400 registered guests**
- **30 grantee organizations** engaging families directly
- Free, accessible, community-based event

## What it does:

- Connected families to **verified summer programs**
- Supported **on-site enrollment and navigation**
- Increased awareness of available opportunities in Baltimore City

## Public Safety Impact:

- Reduces barriers to access
- Increases participation in **structured, supervised programs**
- Connects youth to **trusted providers before summer begins**



# What's New in 2026

## Strengthening Readiness, Safety, and Program Quality

- **Earlier funding decisions (Dec 15)**  
→ Enables early hiring, onboarding, and training
- **100+ hours of capacity building**  
→ Health & safety certifications
- **Continuous learning & evaluation**  
→ Pre-cycle data and real-time feedback

### Result:

Programs enter summer fully staffed, trained, and prepared



# Safety & Accountability Framework

## How BCYF Ensures Safe Programming

### Before Summer:

- Grantee onboarding and compliance verification
- Staff hiring and training aligned to early funding

### During Summer:

- Ongoing monitoring and check-ins
- Technical assistance and support systems

### If Issues Arise:

- Clear escalation and corrective support pathways

### Safety Defined:

- **Physical:** supervised, trained staff
- **Emotional:** supportive environments
- **Structural:** consistent, structured programming



# What We're Learning

## Operational Decisions Drive Safety and Quality

- **97% say early funding is essential**  
→ Direct impact on staffing, planning, supervision
- **83% found supports helpful**  
→ Opportunity to expand access
- Strong trust and alignment:
  - 96% positive experience
  - 100% alignment with BCYF priorities

### Takeaway:

Funding timelines and supports directly shape program safety, readiness, and effectiveness



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**B-360**



# Sustainability & Long-Term Impact

## Building Stability Beyond Summer

- Multi-year funding strengthens staff and program consistency
  - **\$385k awarded in two-year grants**
    - → **Provides predictable, stable funding over multiple years**
    - → **Allows organizations to retain trained staff and avoid seasonal turnover**
    - → **Supports early planning, consistent programming, and safer operations**
- Technical assistance builds **organizational systems**

### Outcome:

Stronger organizations → **more reliable, safe programming year-round**



# Public Safety Impact

## What This Means for Baltimore

- Provides **structured, supervised spaces during peak summer hours**
- Strengthens **trusted, community-based youth programs**
- Improves **staff readiness, training, and safety practices**
- Expands access to **safe opportunities across neighborhoods**

## Bottom Line:

BCYF reduces risk by ensuring young people are in **safe, structured, and well-supported environments all summer long.**



BCYF Grantee Partner  
**Marching Elite**



# Closing

Safe, well-supported programs create the conditions for young people to thrive, during the summer and beyond.

# THANK YOU!



BCYF Grantee Partner  
**B-360**

