

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0031R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Blanchard

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Middleton, Gray, Jones, and Ramos

Introduced and read first time: August 18, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Youth, and Older Adults Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System, Department of Recreation and Parks

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Informational Hearing – Middle School Sports

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from Mayor Brandon M. Scott's administration, the
4 Baltimore City Public School System, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the
5 Baltimore Children and Youth Fund to appear before the City Council to: (1) provide an
6 update on current sports programs for middle school-aged children and identify which
7 programs are being administered by City agencies, schools, and contractors; (2) present a
8 recap of middle school sports program availability in the previous 3 years and a projection for
9 opportunities in the next 3 years; (3) identify opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate and
10 increase the number of programs available in the future; and (4) better define the roles these
11 City agencies hold in middle school sports and identify further ways they can engage middle
12 school-aged children in sports programs and opportunities.

Recitals

14 Youth sports are a unique avenue for children to improve their mental, physical, and
15 emotional health, as well as improve their academic performance and social skills. Regular
16 physical activity through sports programs contributes to a healthier community and provides a
17 wide array of non-physical benefits as well.

18 In the 2017 study “School Sports Participation and Academic Achievement in Middle and
19 High School”, researchers found that school sports participation was significantly associated with
20 academic achievement, positive body-image perceptions, and self-esteem. Participation in
21 schools sports additionally demonstrated a significant standardized effect on academic
22 achievement.

23 Baltimore’s middle school-aged students stand to gain significantly from access to sports
24 programs and opportunities. These experiences can help contribute to their overall personal
25 development and growth and lay the foundation for a brighter and more prosperous future.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the City
2 Council invites representatives from Mayor Brandon M. Scott's Administration, the Baltimore
3 City Public School System, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Baltimore Children
4 and Youth Fund to appear before the City Council to: (1) provide an update on current sports
5 programs for middle school-aged children and identify which programs are being administered
6 by City agencies, schools, and contractors; (2) present a recap of middle school sports program
7 availability in the previous 3 years and a projection for opportunities in the next 3 years; (3)
8 identify opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate and increase the number of programs
9 available in the future; and (4) better define the roles these City agencies hold in middle school
10 sports and identify further ways they can engage middle school-aged children in sports programs
11 and opportunities.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
13 CEO and Board of Commissioners of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of
14 the Department of Recreation and Parks, the President of the Baltimore Children and Youth
15 Fund, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.