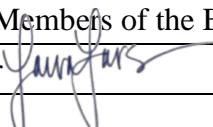




CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
<b>DATE</b>	April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	25-0013 Child Health – Equitable Access to Health Services in City Schools

**Position: Does Not Oppose**

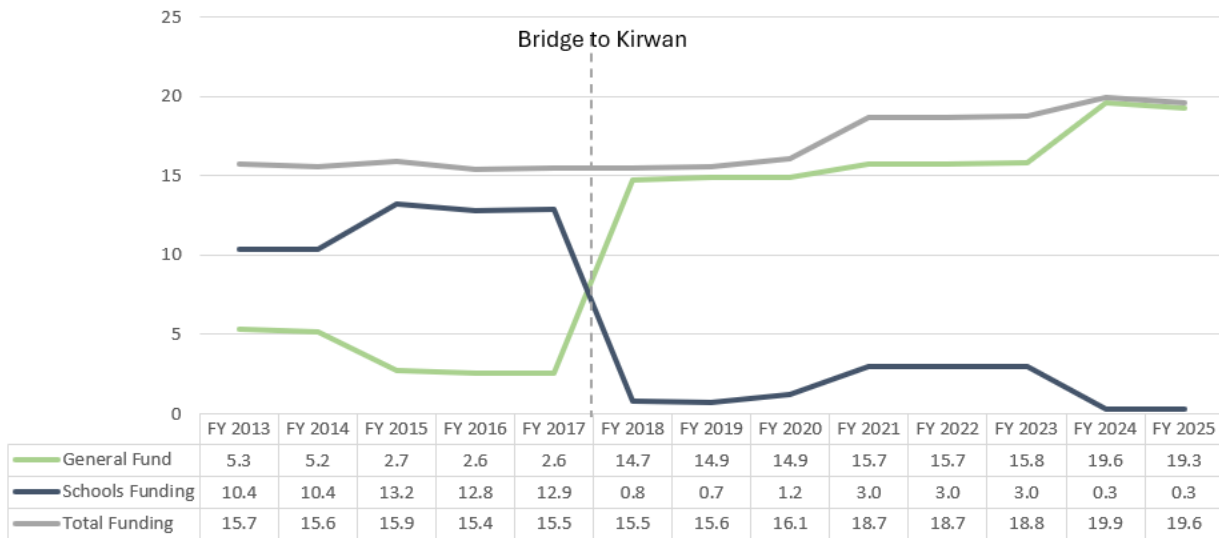
The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 25-0013, Child Health – Equitable Access to Health Services in City Schools, the purpose of addressing disparities in child health care by expanding access to comprehensive health services for children across Baltimore City, including well-child preventive care and vaccines, family planning services, and dental services; providing for a referral to a vision or mental and behavioral health specialist at the written request of a specified individual; requiring, without prior approval, mandatory follow-up care for any positive or abnormal health screening; defining certain terms; generally relating to expanding access to health care for City students in school health centers and health suites; and providing for a special effective date.

**School Health Budget-Prior Year Trends**

The Health Department's budget includes Service 310-School Health Services. This service provides delivery and coordination of health services in School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) to students enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools).

Prior to Fiscal 2018, approximately two-thirds of the cost for School Health Services was funded by City Schools with the City funding one-third. In Fiscal Year 2018, Baltimore City provided additional funding for this service as part of the "Bridge to Kirwan" initiative. Following this change the City began funding most of the service cost. The chart below summarizes historical costs for this service from Fiscal 2015 through Fiscal 2025.

### School Health Funding: City & School Funding \$ in Millions



#### School-Based Health Centers-Current Budget

The Fiscal 2025 budget for this service is \$20.6 million (all funds). The General Fund budget is \$19.3 million, or 94% of the total budget. The table below summarizes the average cost for a School-Based Health Center.

School-Based Health Centers	
Number of Locations (Current)	4
Average Cost/Location	\$864,036

The City currently receives a State grant that covers approximately 75% of the cost for School-Based centers. In Fiscal 2025, Health anticipates receiving \$656,143 from this grant.

It is important to note, the costs and operating model is based on the number of locations operated directly the by the City. In addition to the City's four School-Based Health Centers, there are an additional eight locations operated by Baltimore Medical System and Johns Hopkins University at no cost to the City. Costs for these locations are not included in the fiscal analysis.

#### Conclusion

The City of Baltimore has significantly increased its financial commitment to School Health Services since Fiscal 2018, shifting from a shared funding model with City Schools to providing the majority of funding under the "Bridge to Kirwan" initiative. For Fiscal 2025, the City has allocated \$20.6 million to support this essential service, with \$19.3 million coming from the General Fund. The investment supports four City-operated School-Based Health Centers, each providing a wide range of comprehensive health services to students. While the City bears most of the financial responsibility, State grant funding helps offset a portion of these costs. Additionally, the presence of eight other health centers operated by external partners further enhances student access to care at no cost to the City. This collaborative and well-funded approach ensures that Baltimore City Public School students continue to receive critical health services that support their academic success and overall well-being.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 25-0013.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis

