



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

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<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Ernestina Simmons, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	Thursday, February 13, 2025
<b>SUBJECT</b>	CB 25-0002 Study & Report – Absences in Baltimore City Schools

**Position:** Favorable

### **BILL SYNOPSIS**

City Council Bill 25-0002 seeks to require Baltimore City Public Schools, or “City Schools,” to produce a report that examines and identifies the root causes of student absences in an effort to better identify solutions to address the barriers that students face. City Schools will also be required to collaborate with other city agencies including the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services to propose recommendations to address the causes of student absences both excused and unexcused.

### **SUMMARY OF POSITION**

Upon review, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services supports Council Bill 25-0002 and has determined that families with students enrolled in City Schools that are experiencing homelessness or housing instability may be a contributing factor to increases in school absences.

However, City Council should be aware that the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services deems individuals under age 18 as minors or children, which includes a majority of school-aged children. If the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services were to be called on to provide assistance to school-aged children experiencing homelessness in City Schools, then any services and resources recommended would be geared toward the entire family of that particular student or students.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Based on the findings from the City Schools report, the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services may need to allocate funding to expand services that support the families of students including

temporary or transitional shelter, case management, employment assistance, mental health services, and addiction treatment and recovery support services.

## **AMENDMENTS**

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services does not request an amendment to the Bill.