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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL  
EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH  
COMMITTEE**

*Mission Statement*

*The Committee on Education, Workforce and Youth (EWY) is responsible for creating opportunities for our young people, ensuring economic opportunity and prosperity for Baltimore's workforce, and supporting our most vulnerable neighbors. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include public education, labor relations, workforce development, employment, public parks, recreation, and youth affairs. Issue areas include, but are not limited to: education, including adult education, higher education, workforce development, labor, senior affairs, veterans, childcare, accessibility and disability issues, recreation and parks, and historical landmarks.*

**The Honorable Robert Stokes, Sr.  
Chairman**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**THURSDAY, MAY 06, 2021  
10:30 AM**

**VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING**

***Council Resolution #21-0011R***

**Informational Hearing - Financial Literacy Curriculum Content  
Within the Baltimore City Public School System**

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES

## **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECD)**

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair  
John Bullock – Vice Chair  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Antonio Glover  
Odette Ramos  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Jennifer Coates*

## **WAYS AND MEANS (W&M)**

Eric Costello, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
Robert Stokes  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

## **PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (SGO)**

Mark Conway – Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Zeke Cohen  
Erick Costello  
Antonio Glover  
Phylicia Porter  
Odette Ramos  
*Staff: Samuel Johnson*

## **EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, AND YOUTH (EWY)**

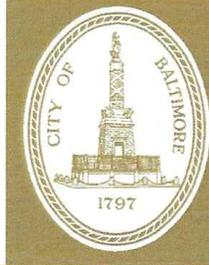
Robert Stokes – Chair  
John Bullock  
Zeke Cohen  
Antonio Glover  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Marguerite Currin*

## **HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY (HET)**

Danielle McCray – Chair  
John Bullock  
Mark Conway  
Ryan Dorsey  
Phylicia Porter  
James Torrence  
Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer  
*Staff: Matthew Peters*

## **RULES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT (OVERSIGHT)**

Isaac “Yitzy” Schleifer, Chair  
Kristerfer Burnett  
Mark Conway  
Eric Costello  
Sharon Green Middleton  
Odette Ramos  
James Torrence  
*Staff: Richard Krummerich*



**BILL SYNOPSIS**

**Committee:** Education, Workforce and Youth

**Council Resolution:** 21-0011R

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**Informational Hearing - Financial Literacy Curriculum Content Within the  
Baltimore City Public School System**

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Middleton, et al

**Introduced:** January 25, 2021

**Purpose:**

**For the purpose** of inviting the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Commissioners from the Board of School Commissioners for the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, and the Executive Director of the Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success to appear before the City Council to discuss how we can: develop curriculum content for a course in financial literacy; require the curriculum content include instruction in choosing a career, earning an income, saving and investing money, credit, and budgeting; and require students to complete a course in financial literacy in order to graduate from high school in Baltimore City Public Schools.

**Effective:** On the date it is enacted.

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**Agency Reports**

Law Department	<i>None received as of this writing</i>
Baltimore City Public School System	<i>None received as of this writing</i>
Mayor’s Office of Employment Development	<i>None received as of this writing</i>
Mayor’s Office of Children and Family Success	<i>Favorable/Amend</i>
Department of Finance	<i>None received as of this writing</i>

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**Analysis**

**Current Law**

**Baltimore City Code – Article 1, Subtitle 1-City Council, Section 1-6**

**§ 1-6. Agencies to provide legislative information.**

It shall be the duty of the head of every City department or bureau established by the Baltimore City Charter or by ordinance to provide all technical materials, plats, drawings, and information that are requested by any member or the President of the City Council for the purpose of introducing legislation into the Council.

(City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §6.) (Ord. 76-080.)

**Baltimore City Charter** – Article VII, Subsections 59 through 64 – Department of Education – outlines the rules, regulations and mandates for Baltimore City Public Schools.

## Background

Per the primary sponsor of the Resolution, “Financial literacy is so important and can take our students to another level; any student graduating high school should know something about checking accounts, savings accounts, and etc. These are life skills and needs to be placed in schools as soon as possible. Looking through equity lens this is very important!”<sup>1</sup>

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, representatives from the Baltimore City Public School System, Board of School Commissioners and pertinent city agencies will come before the committee to discuss how a course curriculum can be developed in financial literacy that would require students to complete before graduating from high school in Baltimore City Public Schools.

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## Additional Information

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore City Code, City Charter, see footnote below, Council Resolution 21-0011R and all agency reports received as of this writing.

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Analysis by: Marguerite M. Currin  
Analysis Date: May 3, 2021

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

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<sup>1</sup> The Honorable Sharon Green Middleton, Vice President, Baltimore City Council.

Council Resolution 21-0011R  
Agency Report(s)

*SEE ATTACHED*



<b>FROM</b>	<b>NAME &amp; TITLE</b>	Tisha Edwards, Director	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	<b>AGENCY NAME &amp; ADDRESS</b>	Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success		
	<b>SUBJECT</b>	City Council Resolution 21-0011R – Financial Literacy Curriculum Content Within Baltimore City Public Schools System		

DATE:

**TO**

The Honorable President and  
 Members of the City Council  
 City Hall, Room 400

May 3, 2021

**Position: Support with Amendment**

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success (MOCFS) has been asked to respond to City Council Resolution 21-0011R introduced by Councilmembers Middleton, McCray, Burnett, and Bullock.

**Background**

This Resolution calls for an informational hearing to discuss: how to develop curriculum content for a course in financial literacy; require that the curriculum content include instruction in choosing a career, earning an income, saving and investing money, credit, and budgeting; and require students to complete a course in financial literacy in order to graduate from high school in Baltimore City Public Schools.

With more knowledge and skills around financial literacy, our youth will be more prepared to meet their financial goals and avoid the pitfalls of predatory practices. Everyone deserves economic stability, and unfortunately, too many households in Baltimore are not equipped to meet this basic threshold. However, Baltimore is fortunate to have a number of organizations who are working to address this gap. With dedicated programming and services, CASH Campaign of Maryland is a leader in strengthening Baltimoreans' financial literacy. Other community-based organizations also incorporate financial literacy education, such as Keys Development, HeartSmiles, The Movement Team, Sisters Saving the City, and Project Restore. These organizations are excellent community resources and could provide opportunities for partnership as Baltimore moves to expand access to these critical skills for more of Baltimore's youth.

**Conclusion**

The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success supports expanded access to financial literacy education, including the named components. However, MOCFS defers to the leaders of Baltimore City Public Schools and Maryland State Department of Education to set graduation requirements.

**The Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success thanks the Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee for the opportunity to respond to Council Resolution 21-0011R and stands ready to answer any questions the committee may have.**

cc: Natasha Mehu  
 Nina Themelis

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0011R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Middleton, McCray, Burnett, Bullock

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore City Public School System, Mayor's Office of Employment Development, Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success, Department of Finance

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing – Financial Literacy Curriculum Content Within**  
3 **the Baltimore City Public School System**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School  
5 System, the Commissioners from the Board of School Commissioners for the Baltimore City  
6 Public School System, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development, and  
7 the Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success to appear  
8 before the City Council to discuss how we can: develop curriculum content for a course in  
9 financial literacy; require that the curriculum content include instruction in choosing a career,  
10 earning an income, saving and investing money, credit, and budgeting; and require students  
11 to complete a course in financial literacy in order to graduate from high school in Baltimore  
12 City Public Schools.

13 **Recitals**

14 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City has the highest poverty rate in Maryland, at 21.8% of its  
15 population;

16 **WHEREAS**, Baltimore City's unemployment rate has fluctuated between 7% and 10% in  
17 2020;

18 **WHEREAS**, a report produced by the Associated Black Charities of Maryland showed that  
19 black workers in Baltimore City are concentrated in low-wage industries and jobs and tend to  
20 earn less and have higher job turnover than their white counterparts;

21 **WHEREAS**, the report went on to reveal that blacks in Baltimore City earned about half of  
22 what white workers earned - a median of \$38,688 compared to \$76,992;

23 **WHEREAS**, the Baltimore City Public School System educates approximately 82,000 students  
24 in 170 schools citywide;

25 **WHEREAS**, the Baltimore City Public School System has a graduation rate of 72%;

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 21-0011R**

1       **WHEREAS**, the Baltimore City Public School Systems Blueprint for Success includes a  
2 well-rounded curriculum with art, world language, technology, and a range of options to meet  
3 student’s interests, but should be expanded to include a focus on financial literacy courses.

4       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the  
5 Council invites the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the  
6 Commissioners from the Board of School Commissioners for the Baltimore City Public School  
7 System, the Director of the Office of Employment Development, and the Executive Director of  
8 the Mayor's Office of Children and Family Success to appear before the City Council to discuss  
9 how we can: develop curriculum content for a course in financial literacy; require that the  
10 curriculum content include instruction in choosing a career, earning an income, saving and  
11 investing money, credit, and budgeting; and require students to complete a course in financial  
12 literacy in order to graduate from high school in Baltimore City Public Schools.

13       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
14 Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Commissioners from  
15 the Board of School Commissioners for the Baltimore City Public School System, the Director of  
16 the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, and the Executive Director of the Mayor’s  
17 Office of Children and Family Success, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City  
18 Council.