



F R O M	Name & Title	Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D. Commissioner of Health 	Health Department MEMO	
	Agency Name & Address	Health Department 210 Guilford Ave.		
	Subject	Council Bill 08-0064R - Informational Hearing - Baltimore City Public School System - Transitional Years Intervention Program		

To: President and Members
of the City Council
c/o
409 City Hall

October 11, 2008

The Baltimore City Health Department is pleased to submit comments in response to City Council Bill 08-0064R. The purpose of the bill is to invite the CEO and other representatives of the Baltimore City Public School System to brief the City Council on the feasibility of creating a proactive intervention program for transitional year students.

This bill will play a critical role in the development of programs for youth transitioning from adolescence to young adulthood. Middle school is a critically important time for the success of students. Our perspective on truancy and drop-out as public health issues has been the foundation of our work with the school system to support at-risk students.

One example is a recent initiative to intensify services to 6th graders who were experiencing academic and behavioral difficulties as suggested by the research of Dr. Robert Belfanz. In collaboration with the Health Department, Baltimore Substance Abuse Systems, Inc. and the Baltimore Mental Health Systems, Inc., this effort, known as the 6th Grade Behavioral Health Initiative involves 920 students in 37 public schools receiving a full continuum of mental health interventions focused on drop-out prevention.

The Baltimore City Health Department looks forward to continuing to work with the City Council to address the needs to young people in our city.

Cc: Angela Gibson
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