

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

Brian Morris  
Chair, Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners

March 11, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
City Hall  
100 Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear President Rawlings-Blake:

I am writing to express the strong support of Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) for City Council Resolution (# 09-0116R) entitled: **Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises Investment Fund – Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding**.

City Schools believes that Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises performs a very valuable service by providing year-round employment for young people in Baltimore. Their innovative approach in hiring young people to train other young people results in very positive outcomes for both student teachers and the peers they instruct. Our experience with more than 20 after-school and out-of-school Peer-to-Peer programs demonstrates that paid peers have high graduation rates, high college enrollment and increased community involvement. We also believe that this program has a positive impact on absenteeism rates and dropout rates.

I firmly believe that the expansion of Peer-to-Peer Youth Enterprises proposed in this resolution is in the best interests of City Schools students and the city of Baltimore. I strongly urge its passage by the City Council. Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Andres A. Alonso, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

