

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette Richardson
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

City Council Charter Amendment 21-0047 Dante Barksdale Career Technology Apprenticeship Fund

April 4, 2022

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) has reviewed Charter Amendment 21-0047, which would ultimately enable the Mayor and City Council to establish a continuing, non-lapsing fund for the purpose of promoting Baltimore City pre-apprenticeship programs and other workforce development programs in Baltimore City's public secondary schools and community colleges that assist students in preparing for and entering apprenticeship training programs.

City Schools believes that paid work-based learning (WBL) experiences for our students, including youth pre-apprenticeships, are essential to our students' success and persistence in their Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways and in preparing all our students for above-living wage, in-demand, and high-skilled careers.

The district primarily utilizes "Apprenticeship Maryland," a youth apprenticeship program with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Labor, to bring these opportunities to our students. The goal of Apprenticeship Maryland is to create compensated, high quality youth apprenticeships that prepare students to enter employment in high-skilled, high growth sectors in manufacturing and STEM occupations such as healthcare, biotechnology, information technology, construction and design, and banking and financing. The program offers students paid opportunities to join the workforce while in school, pursue their interests, and in the adult apprentice program, even help with college tuition.

City Schools appreciates the City Council's consideration of Charter Amendment 21-0047 and looks forward to working with policymakers as well as industry and community partners to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities and accessibility to our diverse population of students.