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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, APRIL 27, 2023
5:00 PM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TO BE TELEVISED ON CABLE TV 25

***Legislative Oversight – LO #23-0035
Baltimore City Public Schools – Math Scores***

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LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Committee: Education, Workforce, and Youth

Legislative Oversight LO 23-0035

Baltimore City Public Schools – Math Scores

Purpose:

Representatives from the Baltimore City Public Schools will come before the Committee to discuss the students' math scores.

Agencies/Organizations Reporting

Baltimore City Public Schools

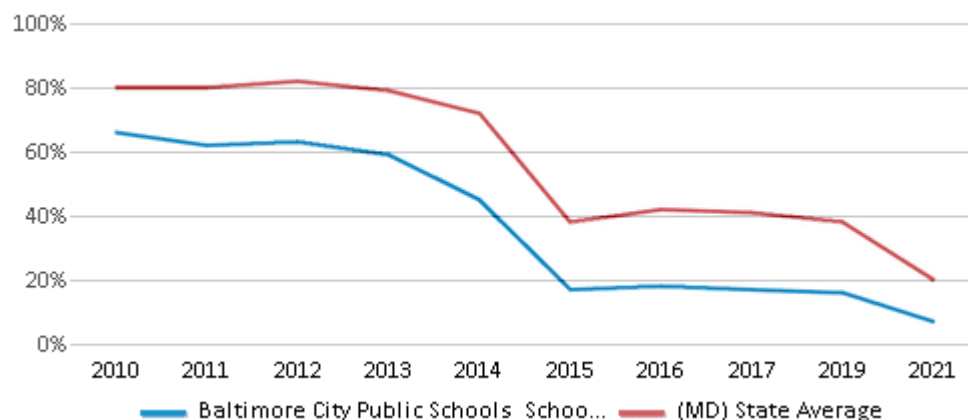
Background

Public Schools in Baltimore City Public Schools School District have an **average math proficiency score of 8%** (versus the Maryland public school average of 19%), and reading proficiency score of 16% (versus the 36% statewide average).¹

Math Test Scores (% Proficient)

BCPS School District 7%

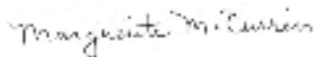
State Average (MD) 20%



¹ Baltimore City Public Schools' website - 2023

On Thursday, April 27, 2023 representatives from the BCPS will come before the committee to discuss the math scores.

Also attached are some news articles pertaining to this subject matter.



Committee Staff: Marguerite Murray Currin

Date: April 25, 2023

Direct Inquiries to: (443) 984-3485

NEWS ARTICLES

LO23-0035

SEE ATTACHED

City schools receive national scrutiny after Project Baltimore report on math proficiency

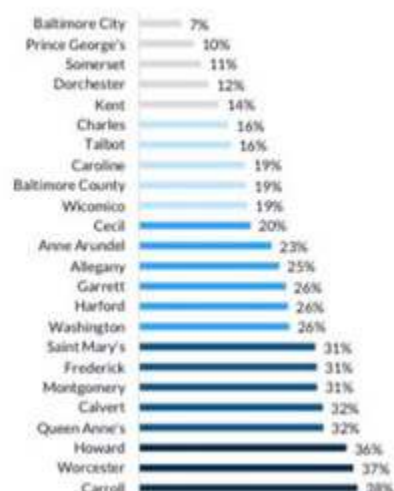
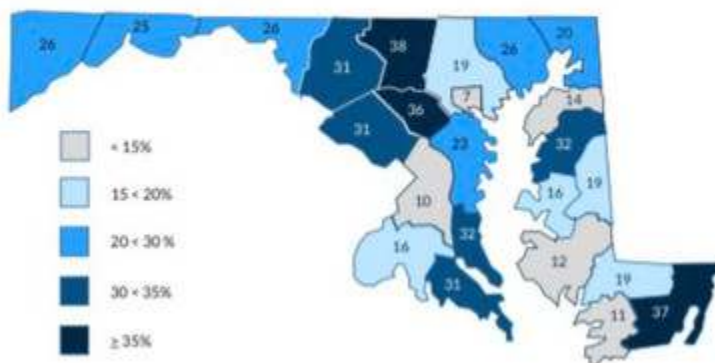
by Emilie Kyler

Sunday, February 12th 2023



Mathematics Grade 3-8 Tests by LEA, SY 2021-2022

Statewide, the percentage of students scoring proficient on math grade 3-8 tests is 22% for SY 2021-2022. LEAs vary from a low of 7% to a high of 38% in proficiency percentage.



Note: SY 2021-2022 data as of December 19, 2022.

Failing schools in Baltimore gain national attention after Project Baltimore story

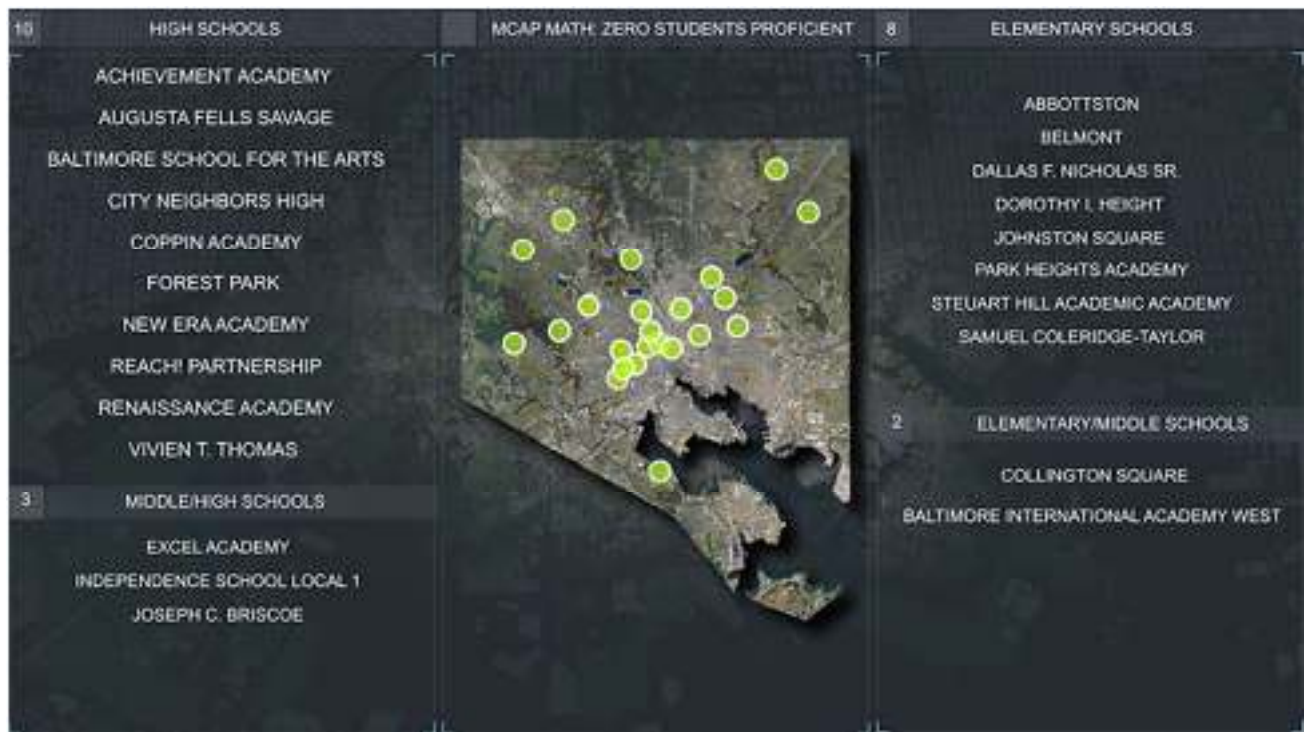


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BALTIMORE (WBFF) — Baltimore City Schools are getting national attention after FOX45's Project Baltimore reported that [23 city schools had zero students who tested proficient in math](#).

Among the list of 23 schools, Project Baltimore reported there were ten high schools, eight elementary schools, three middle/high schools, and two elementary/middle schools.

In total, 2,200 students took the same math test at the schools, and not one could do math at grade level.



23 Baltimore schools have zero students proficient in math (WBFF)
[Promoted Links](#)

Breaking: Graphite Stocks Poised to Take Over the Market The Financial Star

There were another 20 schools that had one or two students testing proficient in math.

[Fox News revealed some Baltimore residents were enraged by the findings.](#)

"I'm shocked. I am frustrated and angry about it. As a parent, I'm a parent. I live in Baltimore City and we've been dealing with this for decades," said Baltimore County Republican Central Committee Kyna "K.J." McKenzie. "And these results are very frustrating."

[A discussion on Reddit](#) drew comments from across the country.

"It's just brutal, man - idk. Can't tell you the answer, or really the root of the problem, other than all of it...all of it is the problem," said user *logrzesi*, who said they were a teacher on the south side of Chicago at one point.

"This is absolutely insane to me," said user *rosemaryonaporch* [in another discussion on Reddit](#).

Discussion flourished on [several Facebook](#) posts. "Need to get rid of the top person in charge of City schools and then work your way down to each school principal that has a failing school," said Laurie Weishorn [in one comment thread](#).

A [blog post written by Attorney Jonathon Turley](#) detailed that 41% of students in the Baltimore system have a 1.0 (D) GPA or less.

Turley reported that the top-spending public school districts are also some of the worst-performing school districts.

"Baltimore is often ranked in the top three per capita spending district. The total budget for Baltimore public schools is roughly \$1.2 billion," Turley wrote.

When FOX45's Mikenzie Frost took Project Baltimore's information to city and state leaders, many chose to stay quiet or deflect the questions.

READ | [FOX45 News questions leaders about math scores in City Schools; oversight hearing called](#)

In Baltimore City, Council Ryan Dorsey said he would not provide any statements to FOX45 News.

"I'm not going to talk about it," Dorsey said when asked why he wouldn't provide a comment.

In Annapolis, Delegate Sandy Rosenberg told FOX45 News he would respond to our emails, "[When] you do a story about students who are succeeding in City Schools. You never do."

We sent [Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott's](#) office questions asking:

- Do you believe a change in school leadership is necessary in Baltimore? If not, why not?
- How do you defend these results?

After [back-to-back days searching for answers](#), we have yet to hear an answer from Mayor Scott and his communication team.

Fox News also reached out to Mayor Scott but also received no answers, which furthered the outrage among Baltimore residents.

On "Fox & Friends First" on Friday, [U.S. Army Veteran and Baltimore resident Evie Harris](#) said Scott is failing to hold the city's school board accountable.

"There is none. There is not [accountability]," Harris said. "There's only, again, the attitude, the elitism, and the constant failure of our children."

Officials respond to report stating 23 Baltimore City Public Schools have no students proficient in math

By Tashi McQueen,
AFRO Political Writer,
February 15, 2023

On Jan. 24, the Maryland State Department of Education released Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program test results in English and math. Though students in Baltimore City returned to pre-pandemic levels of proficiency in English Language Arts, only seven percent of students enrolled in a Baltimore City Public School were proficient in Math.

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) representatives are responding to outrage over the disclosure that 23 City Schools have zero students deemed proficient in mathematics.

The Statewide Spring 2022 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) testing results show that while City Schools students returned to “pre-pandemic levels of proficiency” in English Language Arts (ELA), they struggled in math.

In a statement released by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), it was disclosed that “math proficiency percentages for grades three through eight decreased from 33 percent in 2018-2019 to 22 percent in 2021-2022.”

André Riley, executive director of communications for City Schools, responded to the findings.

“When we saw these scores, we knew students struggled during the pandemic just like other school districts,” said Riley. “These results are from students starting school below grade level and a global pandemic. We have to find the best way to catch them up.”

“Those 23 schools do not begin to describe the situation,” Riley continued. “We have a solid plan and we’re making sure we work with our parents so that they understand these test results.”

The impacted schools include:

Abbottston Elementary

Achievement Academy at Harbor City High

Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts

Baltimore International Academy West

Baltimore School for the Arts

Belmont Elementary

City Neighbors High School

Collington Square Elementary/Middle

Coppin Academy High School

Dallas F. Nicholas, Sr., Elementary

Dorothy I. Height Elementary

Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High

Forest Park High School

Independence School Local I

Johnston Square Elementary

New Era Academy

Park Heights Academy Elementary School

Renaissance Academy

Steuart Hill Academic Academy

The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary

The Reach! Partnership School

Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy

Sen. Antonio Hayes (D-MD-40) weighed in on the results disclosed in the report.

“This news gives me great concern,” Sen. Antonio Hayes (D-MD-40) told the AFRO. “We, as a state, have invested tremendous resources into Baltimore City schools and public education. I will reach out to the Baltimore City School Board to find out this report’s status and how we can better address students and their needs.”

“We have some of the greatest educational institutions in Baltimore City, such as Coppin State University,” said Hayes. “There’s room for partnerships between the school system and higher education institutions to look at how we can reach out to the urban population of children.”

According to the report, only seven percent of Baltimore City students were ranked “proficient” in math. Around the state of Maryland, the highest proficiency rate for mathematics in any county was 38 percent.

Riley said the MCAP tests 14 categories and within half of those categories, City Schools’ rate of improvement was better than the state’s. About 64 percent of City Schools students scored proficiency in ELA.

“We may be of the lowest ranking in the state for math, but we’re closing the gap,” said Riley.