

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Letter of Support **Baltimore City Council Resolution 18-0072R – Supporting CollegeBound Expansion**

April 5, 2018

As drafted, Council Resolution 18-0072R seeks to encourage the support of college education as a positive and achievable goal for a majority of Baltimore City Public Schools' high school students by providing funds for the expansion of CollegeBound amongst the City's high schools.

The goal of City Schools' *Blueprint for Success* is to "build a generation of young people with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to succeed in college, careers, and community, not just here in Baltimore but in any city in the world." It is the belief of City Schools' College and Career Readiness Office that every student needs an adult to provide guidance and support, and that every student needs an individualized plan to help them set postsecondary education goals and understand how best to attain those goals.

Council Resolution 18-0072R directly aligns with these guiding principles. Indeed, CollegeBound has been an invaluable partner to the Baltimore City Public School System for more than 30 years. The proposed resolution recognizes the intensive support CollegeBound advisors provide to City Schools students as they strive to build trusting relationships with students for whom college is the next step. City Schools' data shows that CollegeBound advisors have a demonstrable impact on the financial aide that students receive.

With regards to implementation considerations, it should be noted that City Schools presently utilizes a Fair Student Funding model whereby schools have the autonomy to prioritize their investments. If the proposed resolution is enacted, City Schools wishes to preserve this autonomy by using the additional \$1.3 million to establish a district match to the school investment, thereby reducing the purchase cost of CollegeBound and, presumably, increasing the number of high schools that choose to invest in CollegeBound.

Additionally, while CollegeBound provides services to all City Schools students, advisors are provided with a target list of students with a GPA of 2.5 or greater. This represents approximately 25 percent of the District's students. To fully capitalize on the opportunity outlined in the proposed resolution, City Schools wishes to stress the need for adequate financial support to fully implement its *Blueprint for Success* and prepare all students for college and the workforce.

Finally, it should be noted that City Schools and CollegeBound have long enjoyed a collaborative working relationship as it relates to program direction and planning. If the proposed resolution is adopted, City Schools understands the City Council would expect the collaboration between the two organizations to be maintained so as to ensure City Schools' input and program alignment with College Bound for the duration of the resolution.

We greatly appreciate the Education and Youth Committee's attention to this important issue and respectfully urge full Council support for Resolution 18-0072R.

For additional information, please contact City Schools Government Affairs:

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