

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 19-0134R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Cohen, Henry, Bullock, Burnett, Sneed, Pinkett, Dorsey,  
President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Clarke, Middleton, Reisinger, Stokes, Costello  
Introduced and adopted: February 4, 2019

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**1                    Recognizing Black Lives Matter Week of Action in Baltimore City Schools**

2                    FOR the purpose of recognizing the first full week of February each year as “Black Lives Matter  
3                    At School Week of Action” and calling on all schools and organizations dealing with youth  
4                    in Baltimore to do their part to bring awareness to the school-to-prison pipeline, the need to  
5                    recruit and retain Black teachers, and the full rights of students as outlined in the National  
6                    Student Bill of Rights.

**7                    Recitals**

8                    Black Lives Matter At School is a national committee of educators organizing for racial  
9                    justice in education. They encourage all educators, students, parents, unions, and community  
10                    organizations to join their annual week of action during the first week of February each year.

11                    Schools and local officials must actively combat racism and confront the existence of a  
12                    school-to-prison pipeline in this era of mass incarceration. The educational system, as it stands,  
13                    utilizes harsh disciplinary policies, provides limited opportunities for students to learn about their  
14                    own cultures, and excludes the history of struggle and contribution of Black people and other  
15                    people of color. Furthermore, the racial composition of our teachers does not reflect the racial  
16                    composition of our student body. In fact, there is a wide gap between the percentage of Black  
17                    teachers and Black students in Baltimore City.

18                    For those reasons, Black Lives Matter At School calls for:

- 19                    1) an end to "zero tolerance" discipline and the implementation of restorative justice  
20                    policies in our schools;
- 21                    2) the hiring of more Black teachers;
- 22                    3) the inclusion of Black history and ethnic studies in the K-12 curriculum; and
- 23                    4) the funding of additional counselors in our schools.

24                    The first Black Lives Matter At School national week of action was organized in 2018, and  
25                    thousands of educators around the United States wore Black Lives Matter shirts to school and  
26                    taught lessons about structural racism, intersectional Black identities, Black history, and  
27                    anti-racist movements. Educators in over 20 cities, including Baltimore, Seattle, Philadelphia,  
28                    Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, New York City, and Washington, D.C., participated in  
29                    this national uprising to affirm the lives of Black students, teachers, and families.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 The lessons that educators taught during the week of action corresponded to the thirteen  
2 guiding principles of Black Lives Matter:

3 Monday: Restorative Justice, Empathy, and Loving Engagement

4 Tuesday: Diversity and Globalism

5 Wednesday: Trans-Affirming, Queer Affirming, and Collective Value

6 Thursday: Intergenerational, Black Families, and Black Villages

7 Friday: Black Women and Unapologetically Black

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
9 Council recognizes the first full week in February as “Black Lives Matter At School Week of  
10 Action” and calls on all schools and organizations dealing with youth in Baltimore to do their  
11 part to bring awareness to the school-to-prison pipeline, the need to recruit and retain Black  
12 teachers, and the full rights of students as outlined in the National Student Bill of Rights.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
14 CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, the Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Wage  
15 Enforcement, the CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Chair of the Youth Commission, the  
16 Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the  
17 City Council.