

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0035R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Bullock, Ramos, Porter, Middleton, Schleifer

Introduced and read first time: March 22, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Workforce, and Youth Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Baltimore City Public School System

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - “Passing Through” Baltimore City Public School Students**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Baltimore City Public School System’s CEO to explain to the City  
4 Council why students are being promoted or “passed through” to higher grade levels when  
5 the students are academically unprepared to move beyond their current grade level.

6 **Recitals**

7 **WHEREAS**, At Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts, a student passed only 3 classes  
8 in 4 years but is almost in the top half of his class;

9 **WHEREAS**, Even though the student failed the majority of his classes every year and, in his  
10 first three years at the school, was late or absent for 272 days, the student was repeatedly  
11 promoted to the next grade level, and was on track to graduate this June;

12 **WHEREAS**, Nearly half of the seniors at Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts have a  
13 GPA that is lower than .13;

14 **WHEREAS**, Augusta Fells is failing students by merely promoting them to the next grade  
15 level rather than ensuring that the students are academically prepared for more advanced work;

16 **WHEREAS**, Promotion or the “passing through” of students who are not prepared for the next  
17 grade level is likely a problem in other Baltimore City Public Schools as well;

18 **WHEREAS**, The CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System must explain why  
19 Baltimore City Public Schools have promoted students regardless of whether they are  
20 academically prepared for the next grade level; and how she will prevent this from reoccurring.

21 **WHEREAS**, The CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System must explain how she the  
22 Baltimore City Public School System will solve this problem and fulfill their function of  
23 academically preparing Baltimore City children to lead successful and productive lives.

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

**Council Bill 21-0035R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City  
2 Council urges the Baltimore City Public School System’s CEO to explain to the City Council  
3 why students are being promoted or “passed through” to higher grade levels when the students  
4 are academically unprepared to move beyond their current grade level.

5       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the CEO of  
6 the Baltimore City Public School System, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City  
7 Council.