



Education Advocate

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Baltimore City Schools Releases Ten Year Plan



History was made today, as Baltimore City Schools released its draft 10-Year Plan for 21st Century Buildings, a plan that for the first time is linked to a feasible funding plan. The 10-Year Plan is the culmination of two years of work by City Schools, education advocates and the ACLU Education Reform Project. Standing with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, Schools CEO Dr. Alonso laid out a plan to give every child the opportunity to learn in a building that is safe, healthy and equipped to prepare our children for the 21st Century. The Mayor spoke of her vision in which new schools were anchors of communities, playing a pivotal role in moving the entire city forward.

The 10-Year Plan is a key piece in the campaign to Transform Baltimore, and addresses the outstanding \$2.4 billion need for improvement of city school buildings. It outlines renovation and construction plans for each of Baltimore's school buildings along with a timeline indicating when the work will begin. The recommendations include the renovation or replacement of 136 schools buildings

and the closure of 26 of the most run down buildings.

Implementing the 10-Year Plan is contingent upon securing existing levels of City and State funding in the form of a block grant. A block grant will allow the funding to be leveraged to raise revenue through the sale of bonds. City Schools proposes that a school construction Authority be established to implement the system's 10-Year Plan and ensure accountability. Both the block grant and creation of an authority will require a majority vote of the General Assembly.

City Delegation Chair Curt Anderson, flanked by Senator Bill Ferguson and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg, pledged that passing the block grant legislation in Annapolis would be the City Delegation's top priority. He thanked the Mayor for making it her number one priority as well.



Speaking for the Baltimore Education Coalition, parent Sherrell Savage emphasized how important new schools are to communities. She challenged other parents and community members in attendance to join her on February 25, 2013 in Annapolis for a rally in support of the block grant and new schools for all the children of Baltimore City. She was joined by many Transform Baltimore supporters and leaders, from BUILD, Greater Homewood Community Corporation, Child First Authority, KIPP, City Neighbors, Advocates for Children and Youth, Community Law In Action, and ACLU-MD.

ACLU Education Reform Director Bebe Verdery reflected on the drive to rebuild Baltimore's public schools, "It has been a long two years to get people to pay attention to the crisis that exists in our school buildings and to embrace a vision of new schools for Baltimore's children. But today we are united-- the school system and City, parents, teachers, community and elected leaders are all here united in one purpose, one vision. We have a very real chance at succeeding in our goal."

The public will have the opportunity to comment on the plan at the December 19th School Board meeting and at upcoming community meetings that can be found [here](#). For more information, go to the 10-Year Facilities Plan [here](#).

You're Invited...

Maryland Education Coalition's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 28th
6:00-8:30pm (Dinner Served)

Charles I. Ecker Business Training Center at the Gateway Campus
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

[Registration Open!](#)

- MEC will be discussing their 2013 legislative session priorities, including State aid for school operations and school facilities.
- Distinguished panelists will provide critical information on threats to school funding and on opportunities for successful advocacy

Panelists include:

- Maryland State Delegate Sheila Hixson, Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee
- John Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations Maryland Association of Boards of Education
- Bebe Verdery, Director of ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project

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