



Education Advocate

Use Slots Revenue to Rebuild City Schools!

The ACLU's [Buildings for Academic Excellence](#) report highlights several funding streams as options for financing the \$2.8 billion needed for a full-scale school renovation and modernization program. Today, we examine the role the City's share of slots revenue could play.



Slots will be coming to Baltimore and the City's share of the revenue is estimated to be \$15 million

annually. State law authorizes the City to use slots revenue only for:

- (1) property tax reduction; and/or
- (2) school construction and renovation.

Who makes the decision about whether slots revenue will be used for school construction? **The Mayor and City Council.**

The City's slots revenue should be used to build, renovate, and modernize schools! Excellent school

facilities will help our children achieve, support teachers, revitalize neighborhoods, and have a

significant impact on improving education and attracting and retaining families in the city.

Slots Revenue = 5 Major High School Renovations

Five new or fully modernized high schools would have a huge impact on children, families, and neighborhoods. City students have overwhelmingly chosen Digital Harbor High School as their top choice since 2002. Why? It's stunning! The full-scale renovation brought a new library and media center, modern computer labs, and up-to-date technology in the classrooms. Students and teachers want to be in a school that has working heat, air-conditioning, and modern technology and equipment to support a rigorous academic program.

Most city high schools are in need of a new building or significant renovation. The estimated \$15 million in revenue generated from slots annually would allow the city school system to borrow the funds to fully renovate 5 high schools like Digital Harbor and Dunbar. Alternatively, slots revenue could finance the installation of central air-conditioning in more than 3/4 of the schools that lack it.

School Construction Is The Smartest Investment for City Slots Revenue

The estimated \$15 million from slots will do very little to reduce the property tax rate in Baltimore. Currently, the city's property tax rate is \$2.268 per \$100 of assessed value, and \$15 million is estimated to reduce the rate to only \$2.224. That means approximately \$45 to \$75 in annual savings for the average homeowner (for homes valued at \$100,000 to \$175,000). That is \$4-6 per month; not much to pay for the thousands of students and teachers who would benefit from newly-renovated schools.

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Education Reform Project

Bebe Verdery, Director
Frank Patinella, Education Advocate
Kalima Young, Education Advocate
Ben Kaufman, Education Associate

410.889.8555 | education@aclu-md.org | www.aclu-md.org

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American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland | 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350 | Baltimore | MD | 21217