



Education Advocate

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Strong Support for Spending on School Construction Results of Baltimore Sun Poll

Did you miss this story during the hurricane (as we did)? A [recent Sun poll](#) shows that 79% of Baltimore voters want at least half of the City's share of slots revenue to go to school construction! Only 14% want it used solely for property tax reduction. About half of the respondents want to divide the slots revenue equally between building schools and reducing property taxes.

This is a strong message from City residents about the need to use new revenue to modernize Baltimore's crumbling school buildings!

Transform Baltimore Leaders to engage Thousands of Parents and Teachers At Back-to-School Nights

While there have been impressive renovations in various city schools over the summer, teachers in other schools had to mop up water and set up buckets in their classrooms to catch water leaking in from the storm. Students and teachers deserve better! With support from the ACLU and the Baltimore Education Coalition, Transform Baltimore leaders have started recruiting school community members at Back-to-School events. The campaign is well on its way of meeting the goal of reaching 50+ schools and thousands of parents and teachers!

Baltimore City school buildings are in a state of crisis. If the status quo of renovating only 1-2 buildings a year continues, Baltimore's students, teachers, and neighborhoods will suffer. Join the campaign and be part of the movement to Transform Baltimore by renovating and building new schools throughout the city!

Visit www.transformbaltimore.org
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 Email us at transform.bmore@gmail.com

President Obama Proposes \$25 Billion to Fix America's Crumbling Schools

New jobs plan also recommends \$30 billion for teacher layoff prevention

What is the federal government doing to help modernize dilapidated school buildings? On Thursday evening, President Obama proposed the "American Jobs Act," a \$447 billion plan to bolster economic recovery, build infrastructure, and create new employment opportunities. The plan, should it be adopted by Congress, includes a \$25 billion initiative to renovate 35,000 public school buildings. This includes severely needed emergency repairs, greening and energy efficiency upgrades, as well as new science and computer labs. Forty percent of the funds would be directed toward the 100 largest high-need public school districts which would likely benefit Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George's County. The other sixty percent of the funds would go to states to allocate flexibly.

As the ACLU argued in the 2010 study, *Buildings for Academic Excellence*, the President suggests that increased investment in school modernization will create jobs in a variety of industries, especially construction and engineering. In addition, the plan calls for \$30 billion to prevent the layoff of up to 280,000 teachers and hire thousands more. The money would help school systems avoid cuts affecting children, such as increasing class sizes.

An increased federal role in school construction is critical to meet the huge need, particularly in low-wealth jurisdictions. Advocates must mobilize to get support in Congress to pass the President's proposal!

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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