



## Education Advocate

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## Support the Transform Baltimore plan in Annapolis!

Passing HB304 / SB533 would support the plan to fund \$1 billion in school construction

**Tuesday, February 28th at 1:30pm**

Appropriations Committee, Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.

**Wednesday, March 7th at 1:00pm**

Budget and Taxation Committee, Miller Senate Office Building, 11 Bladen St.

**RSVP for free bus service (details below) by Monday, March 5th**

In January, over 100 enthusiastic advocates traveled to Annapolis for a briefing in a powerful Senate committee. In front of a packed room of campaign supporters, Dr. Alonso and the school system presented an alternative financing proposal to legislators from throughout the state for the first time. [Click here](#) to see photos.

The resulting bills, **HB304** and **SB533**, would allow Baltimore City to receive a stable amount of school construction money from the state in an annual block grant. This would allow the school system to launch its plan to borrow \$1 billion up front and begin much needed construction projects now! These bills, introduced by Del. Haynes and Sen. Jones-Rodwell, have the unanimous support of the city delegation in both the House and Senate. In order to pass, however, legislators from other counties must understand the desperate need for healthy and modern school buildings in Baltimore. This is when our presence and voices are most important!

**We're providing free bus transportation and snacks for those who attend the March 7 hearing, but space is limited! In order to reserve your spot, please RSVP soon!**

E-mail [transform.bmore@gmail.com](mailto:transform.bmore@gmail.com) or call (410)889-8550 x123 for more information

## Take action to keep funding in classrooms!

Budget leaders are debating "doomsday" scenarios that slash education funding, as well as a proposal which would allow counties to take funds from the classroom and use them to pay teacher pension costs. Our Senators and Delegates need to hear from us that these cuts and shifts would be unacceptable. Looking for a quick, easy, and effective way to advocate for Maryland's students? [Click here to take action now!](#)

## Baltimore Education Coalition goes to Annapolis!

District action nights target state funding for education and key school construction legislation

Last year, the Baltimore Education Coalition (BEC) rallied 1,700 strong in the pouring rain to protect Baltimore City students from \$15 million in harmful and permanent budget cuts. This year, the stakes are even higher. The Governor heard our call and a 1% inflationary increase in the "Thornton" formula is in the proposed budget, but we must keep it there. He also recommended shifting the cost of teacher pensions to the counties and city. In all, up to \$30 million in education funding for Baltimore City will be in question. The BEC has also been a major force in the [Transform Baltimore](#) campaign for modern school buildings.

On February 10th, the coalition asked city legislators to take the following actions:

- Work to **pass HB304/SB533** to allow block grant capital funding for school facilities in Baltimore City.
- Work to **pass HB578/SB906** to give the Mayor and City Council the ability to leverage dedicated revenue sources for school construction, which will allow for greater impact.
- Work to **preserve the 1% inflation factor for school funding** in the state budget, recognizing that removing the inflation factor would cut \$7-8 million from Baltimore City schools.
- Take action to **ensure that the cost of teacher pensions is not shifted** to Baltimore City or Baltimore City Public Schools. If the shift cannot be prevented, meet with key decision-makers to ensure that the cost of teacher pensions is wealth-equalized.

**On separate Monday evenings throughout the General Assembly session, individual district teams will be gathering to support these agenda items.** Each event will take place from 6:20pm until 7:30pm in Annapolis, with free round trip bus transportation from locations in Baltimore. Below are the event dates:

District 40: March 5th (Baltimore City House Delegation Room)  
District 41: February 27th (House Ways & Means Hearing Room)  
District 44: March 12th (Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Hearing Room)  
District 45: March 12th (Baltimore City House Delegation Room)  
District 46: February 27th (Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Hearing Room)

For more information on your specific district night or how to get involved, please e-mail:  
[baltimoreedcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:baltimoreedcoalition@gmail.com)

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