



Action Alert: Tell your legislators to fix the budget and don't cut education!

[Click here](#) to send an urgent message to your four state legislators!

The "doomsday" budget threatens to cut \$128 million from Maryland schools. Schools will lose teachers and important programs like summer school if the Maryland General Assembly doesn't pass the budget and revenue package in the Special Session that begins on Monday, May 14.

Do not assume that your legislators are opposed to the doomsday budget. Let them know that you want them to pass the proposed budget and revenue package to keep the "Thornton" education formula fully funded!

Rally for education and youth opportunities with the Baltimore Education Coalition!

May 14, 2012 from 6:00 - 7:30pm
War Memorial Plaza (in front of City Hall)

- 1) The state must fully restore \$22 million to City Schools
- 2) City Council must pass the bottle tax for school construction
- 3) The City must double funding for after-school programs



The **Baltimore Education Coalition** (BEC) is mobilizing advocates from throughout the city to tell our elected officials that youth need to be their first priority! Free bus transportation to and from the rally will be provided (**please register by Thursday, May 10**) for school and community groups that can attend, and **registration is available** at the BEC website.

[The state must fully restore public education funding \(\\$22 million for City Schools\)](#)

The failure of the General Assembly to pass a comprehensive reconciliation and revenue package by the end of the legislative session has left the state with an unacceptable "doomsday" budget that cuts \$128 million in aid to public schools. Baltimore City would absorb \$22 million of that loss. Without further action, schools will lose teachers, class sizes will increase, and fewer resources will be available. Read our **2012 legislative review** for more details, as well as **a letter from three local superintendents** urging state leaders to restore education funding during special session.

[City Council must pass the bottle tax for school construction](#)

The ACLU and other school construction advocates are still fighting to move the Baltimore City bottle tax bill out of committee and onto the floor for a vote by the City Council. The money raised with the three-penny sales tax increase will go toward leveraging more than \$150 million for new schools and renovations.

[The City must double funding for after-school programs](#)

The Mayor has proposed a cut to after-school program funding in the city budget, meaning that principals will have to pick up more of the cost of these critical services. This reduces the number of children who can be served and would reduce funding for other programs at the school level. The Mayor should restore the cut and double the city's investment in after-school activities that provide safe spaces for youth to learn and grow.

Send an e-mail to education@aclu-md.org for more information.

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