



## Education Advocate

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### City Leaders and Advocates Unite in Support of the Block Grant Bill!

On October 16, nearly 300 parents, teachers, clergy, and community leaders representing over 60 organizations from across the city joined the [Baltimore Education Coalition](#) (BEC) in getting on board the [Transform Baltimore](#) "Block Grant Express." The event demonstrated the unity and support of City leaders as School Board Commissioners, State Delegates and Senators, and City Council members came to the event to show their support of efforts to rebuild or renovate all City schools. These leaders were the first to get on board the "Block Grant Express" when they proclaimed the passage of the Block Grant bill the top priority for the General Assembly in 2013.

The State Block Grant is a key component in the financing plan to fully rebuild and renovate all city school buildings within 10 years. City Schools recently completed a comprehensive analysis of school facilities deemed the "[Jacobs Report](#)" that gave City school facilities an "F" for educational adequacy and estimated a \$2.4 billion cost to fix the buildings.

"Every day we send our children into the world and pray that their spirits won't be broken like the buildings they're expected to learn in... These buildings have lied about who you are for far too long," said Arica Gonzalez, Co-Chair of the event. "Tonight we let you know that you are our priority and we will not devalue you any longer." The evening included performances by student groups and a rousing teaching that invited everyone to get on board the "Block Grant Express" to pass the bill this legislative session!



Photo courtesy of Terra Hiltner

### Transform Baltimore Build Schools. Build Neighborhoods.

To stay informed about the latest news in the campaign for quality facilities for Baltimore City students:

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### Host an Event to Support the Block Grant in Your Community Today!

Can you schedule an event at your school or in your community in the next month for [Transform Baltimore](#) (TB) and the [Baltimore Education Coalition](#) (BEC)? November will be a month of local actions in the community to help organize parents and community members to turn out in Annapolis and win the Block Grant Bill this coming legislative session! TB and BEC will be holding a 3,000 person rally in February to make sure our voices are heard in Annapolis and now is the time to energize the community and spread the word! We are encouraging parent, school, church, and community groups to host a conversation about city school conditions and how we can help make sure all our city school students have the opportunity to learn in healthy, safe, and modern buildings that support rather than hinder academic programming.

If you would like to [host an event](#) explaining the conditions of city schools and how the block grant will help get our children the buildings they deserve please contact [Jessica Clark](#) at 410-889-8550 ext 134 or email [transform.bmore@gmail.com](mailto:transform.bmore@gmail.com)!



## Parent-Community Advisory Board Position Openings

The Parent-Community Advisory Board (PCAB) was established as part of the consent decree for the [Bradford v Maryland State Board of Education](#) lawsuit. PCAB reviews the policies and procedures of Baltimore City Public Schools and advises the School Board of Commissioners and City Schools staff on education reform efforts.

The ACLU is looking for a Baltimore City resident, preferably with a child in Baltimore City Public Schools, who is interested in making changes for the better. Children in Baltimore need individuals with leadership and organizing skills to play a role in involving parents and advising on school reform efforts. The term of a board member is two years and availability to meet in the evening is needed along with organizational skills. Make a difference in the life of a child and help change this city!

If you or someone you know is a resident of Baltimore City and has a sincere interest in furthering the goal of improving the schools in Baltimore City, please send a letter/email of interest to [Jessica Clark](#) at the ACLU-MD by noon on November 9, 2012.

## Statewide Discipline Survey Collecting Important Information

The State of Maryland is currently in the process of revising its discipline policies and practices. To help inform this work and provide real feedback from the parents, students, teachers, principals, and administrators dealing with discipline issues on a daily basis, The Open Society Institute of Baltimore in cooperation with the Advancement Project is asking for individuals from around the state to take a few moments to complete a survey on how you experience the discipline policies of your school district and the state. Please take a moment to click the link for the survey that is most applicable to you.

[Student Survey](#)  
[Parent Survey](#)  
[Teacher Survey](#)  
[Principal Survey](#)  
[Superintendent Survey](#)

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## American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland Education Reform Project

Bebe Verdery, Director  
Frank Patinella, Education Advocate  
Jessica Clark, Education Advocate  
Charly Carter, Education Advocate  
Molly Keogh, Education Intern

410.889.8555 | [education@aclu-md.org](mailto:education@aclu-md.org) | [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org)

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