



Education Advocate Newsletter

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In This Issue:

- Great Schools, Green Schools: Bebe Verdery's Audacious Ideas blog
- ACLU, BCPSS, advocates: "Protect Education Funding!"

Great Schools, Green Schools: Bebe Verdery's Audacious Ideas blog

President-elect Obama has been moving swiftly to appoint his new administration. With news of his stimulus package and proposed plans for school construction funding, in her Open Society Institute Audacious Ideas blog, Education Reform Director Bebe Verdery tells the incoming president about the current facilities need, and initiatives, in Baltimore City. She raises several important points about how Baltimore can be a leader in paving the way for green jobs in renovating and constructing school buildings for City Students.

ACLU, BCPSS, advocates: "Protect Education Funding!"

With the news of a recession looming, education advocates from around the state held a press conference on November 17, 2008 urging the General Assembly not to cut education funding. The ACLU joined Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Andrés Alonso, the Maryland State Teachers Association and Baltimore Teachers Union, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, and the State PTA with a call to continue Thornton funding at its current level. The ACLU advocated that legislators maintain their commitment to Thornton funding and uphold the constitution's mandate for an adequate education for the state's children. During the Special Session in 2007, the state cut \$151 million from education funding. This reduction will continue in the upcoming budget; school systems are to receive no less than a one percent increase over the prior year, returning to an increase tied to inflation in the following year.

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland
3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350
Baltimore, MD 21211
410.889.8555 (o)
patinella@aclu-md.org

Education Reform Project Staff

Bebe Verdery, Education Reform Director
410.889.8550 x 106
verdery@aclu-md.org

JaCina Stanton, Education Reform Advocate
410.889.8550 x 134
stanton@aclu-md.org

Frank Patinella, Education Reform Advocate
410.889.8550 x 123
patinella@aclu-md.org

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland | 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350 | Baltimore, MD 21211
410.889.8555 (o) | 410.366.7838 (f) | patinella@aclu-md.org | www.aclu-md.org

