



## City Schools Hosts Conversations About School Police

*Seven meetings beginning July 13 through July 30 - see dates below*

We need your voice! The school system is addressing school police and school safety issues; public testimony is important. The ACLU supports school discipline policies and practices that correct student behavior, limit arbitrary decisions, and apply effective consequences, such as restorative justice practices. We also work to make sure school policies do not negatively or disproportionately impact students of color. To ensure that all Baltimore students are disciplined appropriately, we have asked for the following: policies for school administrators and staff concerning the role of school police; student arrest numbers and data on diversion efforts; and school police trainings that cover youth development, cultural competency and disability awareness. We hope that these meetings will shed light on these issues.



This conversation emerged earlier this year after the introduction of [HB101/SB17](#). The legislation would have authorized school police to carry guns in any Baltimore City public school or on any other property used for educational purposes during school hours. News of the legislation [sparked a debate about guns in schools](#), the policing of children versus policing to protect from outside intruders, and the best way to create a safe and positive learning environment for Baltimore students. After hearings revealed a lack of clarity about the need and reason for the change in gun policy, and the school system's failure to adequately notify the public, the legislation failed. City Schools then determined that school police should be deployed (with guns) outside school buildings in the community, with the exception of 7 schools. City Schools heard [Annapolis' call for more community input](#), and the upcoming meetings were scheduled.

### City Schools' Community Conversations: Safe Neighborhoods, Safe Schools

**Monday, July 13 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, 1400 Orleans Street

**Friday, July 17 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
Forest Park High School, 3701 Eldorado Avenue

**Saturday, July 18 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**  
Baltimore City Public Schools Board Room, 200 East North Avenue

**Monday, July 20 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
Violetville Elementary School, 1207 Pine Heights Avenue

**Monday, July 27 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
Southeast Anchor Public Library, 3601 Eastern Avenue

**Wednesday, July 29 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM - For Hispanic Families**  
Southeast Anchor Library, 3601 Eastern Avenue

**Thursday, July 30 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM - Final Meeting**  
Hamilton Public Library, 5910 Harford Road

# First Components of School Funding Review Soon Available

Maryland's education funding formula, based on the work of the 2000 "Thornton" commission and implemented in the 2002 Bridge to Excellence in Public Schools Act, is currently being reviewed for its financial adequacy in meeting students' needs. The review is important because it will determine the amount of funding the governor and legislators in Annapolis will need to provide to Maryland schools to meet basic funding adequacy. The funding review began last summer and will conclude in October 2016. Any changes to the formula will go before the General Assembly.

On Wednesday, July 22, the fifth quarterly meeting of the [Stakeholder Group](#), of which the ACLU of Maryland is a part, and which provides feedback to the consultants conducting the review, will meet in Annapolis, MD. The meeting will take place from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM and will be open to the public. For more details, check out the Maryland Department of Education's [adequacy study webpage](#).



At the meeting, consultants are expected to provide an update on the progress of the overall adequacy study - currently at its midpoint - as well as a number of ongoing study components. Consultants are also expected to discuss the five reports - a combination of final and interim studies - which were scheduled for release June 30. Those reports will be available soon on [MSDE's funding review webpage](#) and include:

- \* Interim Report - Impact of Concentrations of Poverty, Literature Review
- \* Interim Report - Adequacy Cost Study - Methodology and Progress to Date
- \* Final Report - Proxy for Economically Disadvantaged Students
- \* Final Report - Evaluation of the Impact of Increasing and Declining Enrollment
- \* Final Report - School Size Study

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