

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
*Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners*

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Opposition of
Senate Bill 231 – Public Schools
Cyber Safety Guide and Training Courses – Development,
Implementation, and Reporting**

January 20, 2021

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners understands the need for cyber safety and has implemented procedures to direct appropriate actions of student and staff, therefore this legislation is not required.

City Schools' Instructional Media team has long provided resources to support teachers and students related to topics of cyberbullying and other aspects of digital citizenship. These student resources (including self-paced modules) are housed in a centralized hub for easy access, which is maintained and updated by staff. There are also policies as to the appropriate interaction between students and staff.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team has increased resources and provided refresher opportunities regarding the topics outlined in the legislation. This legislation as presented, would incur operational costs due to the need to build in reporting features required in the legislation, either for the mentioned courses or for MSDE provided supports.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners must oppose the legislation and request an unfavorable report.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038