

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ. Director of Government Affairs

JOEL N. BELLER Deputy Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: **HB 751**

TITLE:Baltimore County - Board of Education - Oversight by the
Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General

SPONSOR: Delegate Ebersole

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: February 5, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 751 – Baltimore County - Board of Education -Oversight by the Baltimore County Office of the Inspector General. This bill places the Baltimore County Board of Education within the jurisdiction of the Office of the Inspector General.

County Executive Olszewski created the Office of the Inspector General to root out fraud, waste, and abuse in government wherever it may be found. This initiative was not only established to uphold faith in county government, but it was created to ensure that tax payers' dollars are spent efficiently. As Baltimore County contributes the vast majority of BCPS funding, the school system should be subject to the same guidelines and oversight as other County departments funded by the County.

Parents across the County entrust their children to our schools and the operations of BCPS directly affect their futures. Parents deserve to know that, when they send their children to school, that students are being left with an institution which is being held to the same standard that Baltimore County Government applies to all other departments.

The Office of the Inspector General was created as a regulatory body independent from Baltimore County because self-investigation is not the most effective means of promoting transparency and accountability. As a former educator, Baltimore County Executive Olszewski understands that when it comes to the children, no amount of oversight and protection is too great.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 751. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at <u>cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>.