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BILL NO.: **HB 428**

TITLE: Community Schools – Rental Assistance for Community
School Families Program and Fund – Establishment

SPONSOR: Delegate Stewart

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 6, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 428 – Community Schools – Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund – Establishment. This legislation establishes the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program to help families who are at risk for homelessness or eviction, and who attend a community school. HB 428 gives the Maryland State Department of Education the responsibility for administering the \$10,000,000 in funds.

This program targets housing assistance to provide for families and individuals who are most in-need. Community schools are intended to address structural and institutional barriers in the historically underfunded communities they serve, largely by providing wraparound services. Community schools are designated by the Maryland State Blueprint for Maryland’s Future’s Concentration of Poverty (COP) Grant. This initiative leverages assets within neighborhoods to improve outcomes for students experiencing poverty. The Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program is consistent with this mission; it allows Community Schools to leverage an additional resource for both alleviating childhood poverty and commits significant resources to housing stability efforts.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 428 from the House Appropriations committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.