

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support of  
House Bill 1157 – Grow Your Own  
Educators Grant Program – Established**

**February 21, 2024**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (the Board) supports House Bill 1157 as a manner in which noncertificated teaching assistants can become certificated teachers and fill high needs content areas with teacher shortages.

It has become increasingly difficult to attract and retain certain staff at the school level and the administrative level in school systems across the country, including Baltimore City. From teachers, to paraprofessionals to school resource officers to school psychologists, attracting and retaining personnel is critical as school systems work to offset learning loss and provide academic enrichment and social and emotional resources to students and staff. Providing a grant program for noncertificated personnel to attend school to gain the credentials to become certificated teachers in teacher shortage areas is a step toward attracting and retaining staff that is critical to the continued growth of our education al system in Marland and the continued support for all of the requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Boad of School Commissioners supports House Bill 1157 and urges a favorable report.

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.  
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs  
[dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us)  
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome  
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs  
[mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us)  
443-525-3038



