

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bernard C. "Jack" Young
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 Support with Amendments
Senate Bill 267
AP Opportunities Act of 2020**

February 4, 2020

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendment Senate Bill 267 as it will allow the State Board of Education to provide Advanced Placement (AP) examination fee assistance for low income students with financial need beginning in the 2020-2021 school year.

The school board currently has approximately 84% of its students receiving free and reduced price meals. We have 21,074 students attending grades 9-12 and some of those students are enrolled in AP courses. AP courses are offered at more than 20 high schools in Baltimore City. Because of the nature of the student body, the ability to cover the costs associated with the examination is arduous for many students. City Schools provides assistance as it is able to do so under Title IV. This legislation will provide additional assistance.

The board would like to clarify that Head Start should be removed, as a student in Head Start would be too young to take an AP class.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports, with amendment Senate Bill 267 and urges a favorable report.

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