

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

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*Chief Executive Officer*

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Opposition of  
House Bill 1499  
Education – Public High Schools Financial Literacy Curriculum**

**March 4, 2020**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (the Board) opposes House Bill 1499 because financial literacy is already incorporated into the curriculum.

Please know that the Baltimore City Public School System (BCPSS) attempts to prepare the whole child, and part of that preparation is understanding personal finances. The elementary and middle grade school students are introduced to financial literacy in social studies classes. There are economic themes in every social studies course taught in the BCPSS, because it is a content standard.

In high school, financial literacy is a required content area and the school board incorporates monetary and fiscal policy into required courses to graduate. Monetary policy, in particular, has personal finance and financial literacy themes. Grade 10 students have an option to elect course work on the principles of business and financial management. Students can learn entrepreneurship along with basic accounting and finance practices. The skills that they learn from this coursework can be translated into their personal habits as they mature and take on more financial responsibility, and must make more personal financial decisions.

The school system also participates yearly with the Maryland Banker’s Association (MBA). MBA supports “Teach Children to Save Day.” One day a year, MBA representatives come to our schools and teach children the basics of savings. Additionally, some school system principals participate in the “Stock Market Game.” This game is an excellent resource used to support financial literacy.

For the above reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 1499 and urge an **unfavorable** report.

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