

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Letter of Information
The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
House Bill 1513
Education – Juvenile Services Education System
Establishment, Powers, and Duties

March 4, 2020

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (School Board) understand the concern that many have with the delivery of educational services to those students in the juvenile services facilities. Prior to the establishment of a 25th school district, as this legislation requests, the School Board would like to raise several issues that should be addressed.

Currently, school boards provide a daily rate of payment for students in juvenile services facilities for 15 or more consecutive days. The average stay for students within juvenile facilities is less than a school year. Under this legislation, the Juvenile Services Education Program's new Board of Education would receive the entire average cost for each juvenile who was domiciled in the county before placement in a residential facility, if the juvenile is in detention for 15 consecutive days or more and was included in the FTE of the county. There must be some mechanism for the school board to recoup the funding that was provided should the student not stay for an entire school year.

Additionally, there is an issue of equity that must be raised. Currently, in Baltimore City, those students that are incarcerated in the Baltimore City Jail receive educational services through the Baltimore City Public School System, i.e. Eager Street Academy. Baltimore City provides the educational services but does not receive funding for students that were attending other school districts prior to their incarceration. If the juvenile services facilities issue is fixed, the School Board would hope that this inequity is reviewed and resolved.

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