

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Jhnette A. Richardson
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
House Bill 836
Public Schools – Student Athletics –
Requirements and Reports (Elijah Gorham Act)**

March 3, 2022

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners expects that the additional training and reporting costs would likely require additional personnel both at the school and the central office level to administer. Also, the requirement to have a stock tank or inflatable pool at all school-sponsored athletic practices and events would be a significant additional expense and raises feasibility issues for many sports.

The proposed legislation would require City Schools to purchase stock tanks or inflatable pools for all schools. The calculation of nearly \$14,000 for the Heat First Cool Second model, at 3 per school. We would ask for funding to provide the stock tanks or inflatable pools.

While we have provided a cost for a popular inflatable pool model, it should be noted the MPSSAA established guidelines reference more feasible methods – the "taco method" using a tarp, for example. This "taco method" was used by the Ravens at a 7-on-7 summer event for a City Schools student suffering from heat illness so we believe this method should also be an option. Also an important consideration must be given to the fact that not all events take place at a school; we also use public parks. An emergency plan should be individualized to be effective.

The distribution of emergency plans could potentially be a cost as well but if this information is required to be made available we believe electronic access should be an option.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports, with amendments and urges a favorable rp.

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