

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Johnette 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
House Bill 739
Primary and Secondary Education – Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment
County – Alterations (Truancy Reduction Act of 2023)**

March 14, 2023

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 739. This bill alters the definition of “full time equivalent” in the calculation for state education aid and requires an average number of students enrolled in K-12 on September 30 and December 31, March 31 and the last day of the prior school year. This is an unreasonable approach for calculating enrollment.

This bill would delay final State and county funding appropriations for school budgets. Additionally, this average of students would not be appropriate because of the high mobility rate in City Schools. While enrollment fluctuates, we still must be prepared to teach all students that are enrolled and not take an average of students enrolled.

The fiscal impact on taking a snapshot of enrollment on these dates is unknown as school systems currently, bylaw, look at the September 30 enrollment count or the three year rolling average, whichever is greater to determine the full time equivalent.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 739 and urges an unfavorable report

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038