

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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of School Commissioners

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Chief Executive Officer

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
House Bill 5 –
Education -Playground Accessibility-
Communication Boards**

January 24, 2023

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners understands the concern the sponsor has about playground accessibility and the need for communication boards. The concern that the Board must raise with the Committee is the costs associated with installing and maintaining the devices.

Upon review, it appears that it would cost approximately \$3250 per item at each of the 120 playgrounds in the school system. Should the Committee want to have such devices, funding would need to be provided, as Baltimore City has the oldest building stock in the State and has numerous other needs for capital funding to ensure safe and adequate buildings for all of our students.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners ask that the Committee review the issue and provide funding for the installation and maintenance of the devices in the capital budget above and beyond the funding found in the current capital improvement program.

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