

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support with Amendment  
Senate Bill 370 Community Schools –  
Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund – Establishment**

**March 26, 2024**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners is supportive of the legislation that would establish the Rental Assistance For Community School Families Program. However, the concern is the language amended onto the bill that would require a community schools coordinator, identify eligible student households and facilitate direct payments. School systems, schools and community school coordinators are not equipped, nor have the resources to facilitate payments or identify all eligible students.

The school board suggests that this program is best handled fully by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). DHCD should consult with the local school system in this program, but that the local school system shall publicize the Rental Assistance Program and direct families to apply that are interested in the program directly to DHCD. DHCD shall be required to review applications and administer the program, inclusive of accepting payment. The school system, community school coordinator, nor schools should be involved in payments to the program.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports with amendment, Senate Bill 370 and urges a favorable report.

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