

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Support of
Senate Bill 161 – State Department of Education
Driver Education and Career and Technical Education – Funding
(Driver Education and Career Education Act of 2025)**

January 22, 2025

Senate Bill 161 would require the Governor to include in the operating budget for each fiscal year 2027 to 2032 funds to the Maryland State Department of Education to support students with access to driver education and career and technical education. The Board supports the spirit of this bill. Currently, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners leverages philanthropy to provide driver education to CTE students. Some apprenticeships and entry level positions require a driver's license (i.e. Local 486 apprenticeships, BCFD, BGE to name a few). There has always been more demand than seats available.

The Board welcomes this legislation and finds it immensely helpful in allowing our students the opportunity to gain practical work experience in areas in which a driver's license is needed. For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 161 and urges a FAVORABLE report.

