

**The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support of Senate Bill 283  
Students with Financial Need – College Preparatory Programs –  
Exam Fee Prohibition**

**January 29, 2025**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 283. This legislation would require that beginning in the 2025-2026 school year a school board may not charge a student who is eligible for free or reduced price meals any exams related to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program; the Cambridge AICE Diploma Program or a program consisting of advanced placement courses offered by the College Board.

Baltimore City School System supports the named programs within the legislation and recognizes the need for students with financial need to be offered exam fees free of charge. Currently, the Board does not charge its students any fees and finds this legislation consistent with the Board's current policy, as well as knowing that certain students do not have the financial means for the exams or AP courses and therefore need financial assistance.

Should the legislation pass, the Board would be remiss to determine if there would be any additional funding that could be used exclusively for the exam fees that school districts can access to help offset costs.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bil 283 and urges a favorable report.

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