

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Opposition of
House Bill 976 –
Primary and Secondary Education - Funding Accuracy and Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment
Count - Alterations and Report (Education Funding Accuracy Act)**

March 11, 2026

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners (the Board) opposes House Bill 976. The bill would require two counts of students each year, on September 30 (current law) and May 31 of the prior school year. The Board does not see the need for dual counts, as the September 30 enrollment count is appropriate. Taking dual counts could have a detrimental effect on school board funding.

Should a school system lose enrollment (which may happen in more counties than the sponsor imagines), the concern is that there is still a need to provide resources to those students that come in and out of the school building. In Baltimore City, there is much mobility and there is a need to ensure that appropriate resources and staffing are available, as students are so transient in the City of Baltimore.

This would also pose issues with the state mandated minimum school funding requirements of the Blueprint. The Blueprint requires that at least 75% of per-pupil formula funds—and 100% of specific, targeted grants, such as the concentration of poverty grant—directly reach individual schools. This minimum school funding ensures resources follow students, with compliance reporting required for local education agencies. This new potential dual count would clearly upend minimum school funding.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 976 and urges an unfavorable report.

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