

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support of  
House Bill 76 Local School Systems – School Safety – Grant Allocations**

**February 17, 2026**

The Baltimore City School Board has reviewed the proposed legislation and have identified meaningful opportunities for our district to enhance school safety initiatives. This grant would be particularly beneficial in addressing our staffing needs, including the addition of a grant-funded Community Resource Officer, envisioned as a civilian position. This role would strengthen relationships between School Police and Baltimore City students.

Funding could also support essential materials and informational initiatives such as school assemblies, public service announcements, and community fairs. These efforts are vital for promoting safety awareness and building trust within our school community.

In short, the proposed legislation provides an opportunity to secure additional resources for innovative strategies that enhance school safety, improve relationships with students, and create a safer and more connected school environment. The Board would caution that there should be a definition of “unmet need” so that the additional funding is adequately provided to school districts in a fair and reasonable manner.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports House Bill 76 and urges a favorable report.

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