

**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Opposition of  
House Bill 943 – State Board of Education – Financial Literacy – Graduation Requirement**

**February 25, 2026**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners understands the need for students to learn financial literacy and finds that this should not be mandated as a graduation requirement. Each school system should have the autonomy to develop appropriate courses for its student body.

The Baltimore City Public School System already addresses financial literacy standards through an integrated curriculum approach as articulated in its Curriculum Management Plan. City Schools' elementary and middle grade school students are currently introduced to financial literacy in social studies classes. There are economic themes presented in every City Schools social studies course, as these are a content standard in the curriculum.

In addition, for high school students, the American Government course teaches Monetary and Fiscal Policy. Monetary Policy, in particular, contains personal finance and financial literacy themes. Grade 10 students have an option to elect course work on the principles of business and financial management. Students can learn entrepreneurship along with basic accounting and finance practices. The skills that they learn from this coursework can be translated into their personal habits as they mature and take on more financial responsibility and must make more personal financial decisions.

The Baltimore City school board is concerned by the potential fiscal and logistical implications of the proposed legislation. For example, if this requirement is added, knowing there are so many other mandatory courses, another course will need to be modified or shortened in order for this to become a graduation requirement. It should be noted that adding additional credit requirements can create challenges for students who are already completing a number of courses (i.e., CTE students, students seeking IB diplomas, etc.) in addition to the baseline Maryland requirements to earn a diploma.

Current practice in City Schools meets the needs of the sponsors. While it is not a graduation requirement, all students receive financial literacy throughout their school career in Baltimore City.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes House Bill 943 and urges and unfavorable report.

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