Dear Commissioner William E. Kirwan,

I am writing on behalf of Baltimore City Councilman Ryan Dorsey, District 3, to provide to you and all members of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education a copy of the attached resolution. The Baltimore City Council Education and Youth Committee held a hearing on Thursday, October 18, 2018 on Arts Education Funding. On December 3, Councilman Dorsey put forth the attached resolution in summary of the findings of that hearing. It was immediately adopted unanimously by the Baltimore City Council on December 3rd, making certain specific requests of the Commission, pertaining to arts education funding.

Thank you for your time and for sharing it with the members of the Commission.
Best!
Mia

Resolution Title: 18-0116R
The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education - Arts Education For the purpose of requesting that the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education include arts education as part of the base educational funding formula to enable local educational systems to comply with the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 13A.04.16.

Mia Blom
Chief of Staff
Office of Councilman Ryan Dorsey, Baltimore City Council - District 3
p: 410-396-4812
e: mia.blom@baltimorecity.gov
Resolution

CITY COUNCIL 18-0116

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education - Arts Education

For the purpose of requesting that the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education include arts education as part of the base educational funding formula to enable local educational systems to comply with the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 13A.04.16.

**The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**
Agencies

___ Baltimore City Public School System
___ Baltimore Development Corporation
___ City Solicitor
___ Comptroller’s Office
___ Department of Audits
___ Department of Finance
___ Department of General Services
___ Department of Housing and Community Development
___ Department of Human Resources
___ Department of Planning
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________

Boards and Commissions

___ Board of Estimates
___ Board of Ethics
___ Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
___ Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation
___ Commission on Sustainability
___ Employees’ Retirement System
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________

___ Environmental Control Board
___ Fire & Police Employees’ Retirement System
___ Labor Commissioner
___ Parking Authority Board
___ Planning Commission
___ Wage Commission
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________
___ Other: ________________________________
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0116R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmembers Dorsey, Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Scott,
Pinkett, Cohen, Sneed, Middleton, Bullock, Clarke, Reisinger, Stokes, Burnett
Introduced and adopted: December 3, 2018

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education - Arts Education

For the purpose of requesting that the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in
Education include arts education as part of the base educational funding formula to enable
local educational systems to comply with the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR")
13A.04.16.

Recitals

On October 18, 2018, the Baltimore City Council Youth and Education Committee held a
public hearing on the status of arts education in the Baltimore City Public School System
("BCPSS"). At the public hearing, BCPSS staff, as well as students, parents, and community
members testified about the lack of arts education BCPSS students receive. Only 78% of pre-
kindergarten through 8th grade students are enrolled in the visual arts, and only 53% of pre-
kindergarten through 8th grade students are enrolled in music. Less than 7% of students are
enrolled in dance or theater courses. In Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties, every pre-
kindergarten through 8th grade student receives instruction in the visual arts and music by
certified teachers every year.

The inequity between the education BCPSS students receive and the education that students
from the counties receive is partially due to deficient state-wide funding. The State has found
that BCPSS should receive an additional $290.358 million each year. This shortfall in funding
has resulted in devastating cuts to the BCPSS budget over the past decade.

In June of this year, BCPSS adopted the Baltimore Arts Education Initiative ("BAEI")
Strategic Plan and 5-year implementation goals to meet COMAR standards and achieve equity
and excellence in arts education for all BCPSS students. The BAEI is the result of a 6-month-
long project that had over 100 stakeholders, including students, parents, community members
and organizations, principals, teachers, artists, the City Council, and BCPSS central office staff.
Through direct engagement with the development and implementation of the plan, CEO Dr.
Sonja Santelises and her staff have taken a proactive stance in addressing the gross inequities in
arts education between city schools and schools in the counties. Arts education is essential in
fulfilling the "whole child" component of the BCPSS Blueprint for Success.

The Baltimore City Council has a deep and continuing interest and commitment to
supporting opportunities for the youth of Baltimore City. We are in the first year of
implementation of the Children and Youth fund – proposed by Council President Jack Young
and confirmed by 80% of voters in 2016 – that provides $12 million in grants annually to
childhood and youth programs. Some of these programs include extracurricular arts

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
Strikeout indicates matter deleted by amendment.
opportunities, but this cannot substitute for or begin to address the current inequities in standards-based school arts programs.

These inequities can only be addressed with adequate state funding. All students in Maryland deserve access to a world-class education. Arts education – dance, media, music, theater, and visual arts – is an essential element of a well-rounded education. Maryland’s educational funding formula should reflect and support what has been recognized and memorialized in COMAR, by the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and the State legislature, that arts education is part of a well-rounded education for every student. The State Board of Education in 1997, and again 2017, confirmed standards-based arts education in COMAR as essential to a complete education for students in Maryland. Unfortunately, the State has not provided the resources to fund this mandate. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education has the opportunity and responsibility to fund this mandate.

In order to fulfill the requirements described in COMAR, the Commission should align adequate funding to enable each Maryland school district to meet the requirements of COMAR. The Commission should support base funding formulas that enable school districts to support a 150-450:1 student to art teacher ratio at the elementary school level, a 750-900:1.5/2 student to art teacher ratio at the middle school level, and a 1200-2000:3/5 student to art teacher ratio at the high school level. The Commission should include standards or curricular frameworks with embedded standards in instructional systems, as stipulated in COMAR, for subjects in which students receive core content credit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Baltimore City Council requests that the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education include arts education as part of the base educational funding formula to enable local educational systems to comply with the Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 13A.04.16.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Chair and all Commissioners of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, the Baltimore City 2019 delegation to the Maryland General Assembly, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Standing Committee of the Maryland Senate, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Standing Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates, the Senate President of the Maryland General Assembly, the House Speaker of the Maryland General Assembly, the Baltimore City Director of Government Relations, the CEO of the Baltimore City Public School System, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.
INTRODUCTORY*

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL _______ R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Dorsey

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education - Arts Education

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The Baltimore City Council has a deep and continuing interest and commitment to supporting opportunities for the youth of Baltimore City. We are in the first year of

* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL. THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.
implementation of the Children and Youth fund – proposed by Council President Jack Young and confirmed by 80% of voters in 2016 – that provides $12 million in grants annually to childhood and youth programs. Some of these programs include extracurricular arts opportunities, but this cannot substitute for or begin to address the current inequities in standards-based school arts programs.

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FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) ........................................... 20


PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON ........................................... 20

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF ........................................... 20

_____ FAVORABLE _____ UNFAVORABLE _____ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED _____ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION


COMMITTEE MEMBERS:


COMMITTEE MEMBERS:


SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for


Third Reading on:


____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.


THIRD READING ........................................... 20


____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.


THIRD READING (ENROLLED) ........................................... 20


____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.


THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) ........................................... 20


WITHDRAWAL ........................................... 20

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.


President


Chief Clerk


DEC 03 2018