



Elev8 Baltimore, Inc.
800 N. Charles Street, Suite 400
c/o Fund for Educational Excellence
Baltimore, MD 21201

The Honorable Senator Bill Ferguson
Senate President
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear President Ferguson,

Elev8 Baltimore is pleased to support the SB 630 *Education – Adult High School Pilot Program – Funding and Grants*. The Adult High School Program is vital to ensuring that residents of Maryland have additional pathways to receive their high school diploma which continues to be a barrier to long term, family sustaining wages. In Baltimore City, it is estimated that over 80,000 adults over the age of 18 are lacking a high school diploma which leads to poor outcomes for children, families, and communities¹. In a 2019 report published by the Abell Foundation, social policy analyst Martha Holleman provided key recommendations to advance positive outcomes around adult education and workforce development included in the recommendations is to establish a dedicated source of public funding to support Adult High Schools.

The South Baltimore Adult High School, located in Cherry Hill is a partnership between Elev8 Baltimore, Baltimore City Community College and The Cherry Hill Development Corporation, through this partnership the adult high school program will serve at scale up to 300 participants. Participants are supported using the same community school framework that has been adopted through the Kirwan Education Funding Formula as a strategy to address barriers to student success. This model will afford participants case management, academic tutoring and remediation, workforce development, and job placement support. As a state program, located in south Baltimore we are positioned to serve participants that live in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel and Baltimore Counties' residents with ease. Over the past two years, we have worked in collaboration with The Department of Labor and the program manager for Adult High School Programs to provide clarity to interested participants eager to enroll in the program. With the support of the Senate, we believe that this pilot program will yield best practices in the field and will catapult successful participants to success.

On behalf of the participants and the community we thank you in advance of your support in passing SB 630. If you have additional questions about Elev8 Baltimore or the adult high school program, feel free to contact me at aadams@elev8baltimore.org or 503.410.1882 (cell phone).

In Service,

Alexandria Warrick Adams
Executive Director

¹ <https://abell.org/publications/adult-high-school-diploma-achievement-baltimore>