

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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of School Commissioners

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**Testimony of the  
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners  
In Support of  
Senate Bill 109 –  
Interagency Commission on School Construction – Systemic Renovation  
Projects – Eligibility**

**January 19, 2023**

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 109. The Baltimore City Public School System (City Schools) has the oldest building stock in the State. City Schools also receives \$19 million from the City of Baltimore for its annual capital improvement plan and about \$28 - \$32 million annually in the CIP from the State. With the oldest building stock in the State, many school buildings have very outdated systemics, therefore much of the need is for systemic renovations as well as for major capital improvements.

When the Built to Learn Act was enacted, it provides for additional funding for school construction. This school board will be using the funding to provide for the renovation of a few of its large high schools. However, we have seen escalation costs as high as 50% for major project renovations and 40% for systemics. The additional funding that the Built to Learn Act has provided has also been decreased by \$63 million for City Schools due to the bond market. Therefore, the need to allow for the bundling of systemics is greater than ever so that more flexibility is given.

For the foregoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners supports Senate Bill 109 and urges a favorable report.

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