

**Testimony of the
Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
In Opposition of Senate Bill 851
Public Schools – Interscholastic Athletics – Student Eligibility
Waiver and School Classification**

March 6, 2024

The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners appreciates the spirit of the legislation, but has several concerns and must oppose Senate Bill 851

As drafted, the bill presents implementation challenges at a very basic level for the Baltimore City Schools. The legislation requires students to receive a waiver to participate with their “zoned” school; however, Baltimore City Schools do not maintain zoned/home school designations. Without an assigned school, how would we determine at which school the student was eligible to compete? In addition, how would we evaluate a request if a student wanted to participate at a citywide school?

In short, it is impractical to invoke a home school rule in districts that do not identify home schools at the high school level. Therefore, for the forgoing reasons, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners opposes Senate Bill 851 and urges an unfavorable report

Dawana Merritt Sterrette, Esq.
Director, Legislative and Government Affairs
dsterrette@bcps.k12.md.us
443-250-0190

Melissa Broome
Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs
mcbroome@bcps.k12.md.us
443-525-3038

