Education Reform Project

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Constitution Guarantees “Thorough and Efficient”

1994: Bradford vs. Maryland State Board of Education
2002: “Thornton” Law – Adequate Funding

Top Priorities: Adequate Funding, Pre-K, Effective Discipline Policies, School Facilities, Out of School Time
Current Conditions of Baltimore City School Buildings

- 80% in POOR condition
- Oldest in the state
- Unhealthy & unsafe
- Inadequate & deficient
DO NOT DRINK
HAND WASHING
ONLY
History of Our Facilities Work

2002: State Task Force, ACLU reports

2004: Public Schools Facilities Act

2005-2008: Facility Solutions, School Closings
ACLUs Fights for more funding

2009-10: NEW APPROACH!
Buildings for Academic Excellence

- Exposed the Deplorable Conditions
- Research on Negative Impact
- Exposed Flawed Funding System
- Offered a Vision and Feasible Solutions
- Called on Elected Officials to Act
The Condition of Schools Send a Powerful Message to Students About the Value of Education

• Climate Survey: Students ranked schools facilities the lowest

“My school looks and feels like a prison.”
- Baltimore City Student

“It looks like a university.”
- Harford County Student
State Funding Not Directed Toward Greatest Need

Estimated State Funding Needed to Bring School Facilities to Minimum Adequacy Compared to the Actual Funding to Each District for FY06-10

- **Baltimore City**: $600 million
- **Anne Arundel**: $200 million
- **Baltimore County**: $300 million
- **Howard**: $100 million
- **Montgomery**: $200 million
- **Prince George's**: $500 million

**State Share of Total Cost** vs. **State Funding Provided**
The State Must Do More: City’s Low Debt Capacity

Chart 3: Total Local Capital Budgets for Large Maryland Districts (FY07-10)

Baltimore City’s low wealth limits its capacity to borrow money for infrastructure improvements.
Baltimore City slightly exceeds the state average in the percentage of capital funding it devotes to schools.
The State Must Do More: Disparity in Local Wealth

Total Local and State Capital Contribution to School Facilities (FY07-10)

State Capital Contribution to School Construction
Local Capital Contribution to School Construction

State does not address the disparity in local wealth and capacity.
Nonprofit Organization

* Borrowed $1 billion up front *

School System

Partnership

$60 million/year to pay back debt for 25 years

Built 70 new and renovated schools
ACTIONS

2010: Media Strategy for Report

2011: Launched Transform Baltimore: Build Schools, Build Neighborhoods

What Did We Need to Win?

* UNIFIED CITY: Grassroots & Mayor, CEO of Schools, City Council, City Delegation
Transform Baltimore
Build Schools, Build Neighborhoods

Campaign to modernize every public school building in Baltimore City
Campaign Actions - Strategy

2011: Make a Top Issue in Mayoral Elections

- 50 Back to School Nights
- 3000 Postcards to the Mayor

ACTION: “Speak Out!”

Mayor Commits - Alternative Financing Study
  New Revenue
Expanding Revenue for School Construction

1% Local Sales Tax for School Construction

School districts in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida have received state funding for school construction programs. However, this is enough to fully renovate only 13 new schools, leaving 5 schools in need of additions to accommodate growth or fully renovate every city high school. The city of Charleston, South Carolina, has received 10 new schools, 13 new schools, and 40 new elementary schools, including 22 schools.

A New Approach is Needed

Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and businesses supported the sales tax increase for schools, saying it was needed to build 8 or 9 new schools. However, this is not enough to fully renovate every city high school or build 40 new elementary schools.

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By doing the same, Baltimore could leverage approximately $800 million to expand the programming for career and technology and fine arts.

State funding for school construction projects was $1 million per year for improving Baltimore's school buildings, it would take over 50 years to build the new schools needed for every city school building. Building conditions will always be deficient unless city and state officials develop an innovative financing plan and new revenue to fund improvements.

Modern Schools Promote Economic Stability and Revitalization in City Neighborhoods

The decades-long deterioration of school buildings in Baltimore City contributes to neighborhood blight and prevents schools from being a positive asset in Baltimore's revitalization efforts. What kind of message is this sending to potential homeowners, businesses, and investors? To revitalize Baltimore, it is essential to fully modernize all public school buildings in Baltimore City within 8 years.

Excellent Schools Can Attract and Retain Families and Homeowners

Baltimore City lost 30,000 residents over the past decade. Studies show that families are more likely to move to and stay in neighborhoods when there is the perception of high-quality schools. Schools are the anchor of and sources for community resources, and families are host to public meetings, centers for voting, and link citizens to local officials' investment in its citizens.

The school building itself is a tangible indicator to residents of their local officials' investment in its citizens.

How Would You Spend Your Five Cents?

Rebuild Ten Elementary Schools?

The city school district needs $2.8 billion for school construction and renovation, including $1 billion for construction and $1.8 billion for renovation and maintenance.

Built in Five Years!

The Greenville Plan: "70 New and Renovated Schools"

Leadership, all of Greenville County's 70 schools were built new and/ or fully renovated in five years.

Financing $2.8 Billion in School Building Renovations Within 8 Years is POSSIBLE for Baltimore City

How "Did" They "Do" It?

Greenville County Public School System was limited by debt management guidelines, which only allowed the school system to borrow $60 million annually for construction and building management.

In DeKalb County, part of the Atlanta metro area, voters have approved efforts to modernize all public schools in Baltimore City within 8 years.

Georgia Code (2007) 13-13-10 enacted a property tax hike, government leaders and businesses urged voters to approve a 1% local option sales tax for schools.

100 schools in Charleston, South Carolina, have used local sales taxes to supplement fiscally responsible and advantageous efforts.

Many schools in Charleston were outdated, ill-equipped for learning, and even structurally unsafe. Instead of a property tax hike, government leaders and businesses urged voters to approve a 1% local option sales tax for schools.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in available funds, the non-profit hired staff to implement all aspects of the construction process.

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Campaign Actions - Strategy

2012: City Schools Alternative Finance Workgroup

City Council Briefing

School Board Presentation

“Block Grant” Bill by City Delegation

BEC Turns Out in Large Numbers
Campaign Actions - Strategy

2012: State - Summer Study

Greenville Finance Experts

Pass City Beverage Container Tax

BEC’s City Delegation Action

Mayor and CEO United
What If You Don’t?

- Year 0: $2.4 Billion
- Year 1: $2.4 Billion
- Year 2: $2.4 Billion
- Year 3: $2.4 Billion
- Year 4: $2.4 Billion

- Year 0: $1.214 Billion
- Year 1: $2.419 Billion
- Year 2: $2.419 Billion
- Year 3: $2.419 Billion
- Year 4: $2.419 Billion

Legend:
- Green: Total Remaining Need with Current Funding System
- Red: Total Remaining Need with Innovative Financing
2013: Baltimore City School Construction Act

Coalition, Mayor, CEO, Delegation United

BEC Turns Out 3,000 Strong

House Speaker, Lt Governor Support
$1 Billion City School Construction Bill Passes

$20 million – City
$20 million – City Schools
$20 million – State

Maryland Stadium Authority estimated $977 Million in bonds

23-28 schools by 2020