

Transform Baltimore

Build Schools. Build Neighborhoods.

The campaign to Transform Baltimore calls upon elected officials and decision makers at the local, state, and federal levels to adopt and act upon a funding plan to renovate and modernize all public school buildings in Baltimore City within 8 years.

IT IS POSSIBLE to Modernize Every City School Building!

Our political leaders must endorse proven financing methods to address the \$2.8 billion needed to modernize all city schools. Our campaign offers these funding solutions:

1. Leverage annual construction funds for long-term borrowing. Current school construction funding from the city and state can be used to borrow an estimated \$1 billion up front. City and state officials must commit to steady funding over time and flexible use of school construction dollars, so that it can be used to pay off the debt. Greenville, SC used this model to renovate and modernize all 70 of its school buildings in five years.

2. Support local revenue expansion for school construction: The City's share of VLT (slots) revenue can be used to borrow an estimated \$230 million to fully renovate 5-6 high schools or build 10-12 new elementary schools. The slots revenue would pay off the debt. The City must also seek out new sources of revenue at the local level. Voters throughout Georgia, Florida, and Iowa have approved a 1% local option sales tax dedicated to school construction and modernization.

3. Increase state funding for city school construction: Connecticut, New York, and Ohio have ensured that students in low-wealth districts have excellent and healthy school facilities. The State of Maryland must contribute more to Baltimore schools so that all city children can learn in school buildings that meet standards for adequacy, in accordance with the State Constitution.

We call upon leaders to support and implement these methods or quickly offer alternatives that would meet the goal of modernizing every city school building within 8 years.

Why Modernize City School Buildings?

Existing Conditions Are Completely Unacceptable	Current Funding System is Flawed	Benefits of Modernized School Buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ City schools are the oldest in the state, averaging 40+ years in age▶ 70% are in poor condition▶ Lower student academic achievement▶ Violate students' constitutional right to an adequate education▶ Unhealthy, unsafe, and ill-equipped to support a high quality academic program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ An estimated \$2.8 billion is needed to modernize every school▶ State and city funding is inadequate (~\$60 million/year)▶ Baltimore City is constrained by low borrowing capacity▶ Current funding system perpetuates poor conditions▶ A new and innovative funding approach is needed!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Increase student academic performance▶ Attract/retain great teachers▶ Attract/retain homeowners and families in neighborhoods▶ Attract businesses and build long-term economic stability for the city▶ Create thousands of jobs in construction and related industries

Act Now!

Join the Campaign to Transform Baltimore!

WE NEED YOU! Baltimore's children, schools, and neighborhoods need support of groups and individuals throughout the city. In order to achieve our campaign goals, we need the active engagement and support of all endorsing organizations!

How Do We Move This Campaign Forward?

1. Sign on! Member groups will be added to **Transform Baltimore** materials and website
2. Turn out members to a meeting or action upon request
3. Activate members to call or email policymakers upon request
4. Send a representative to important Campaign meetings, actions, and events
5. Distribute fliers, postcards, bumper stickers, and other promotional materials

Help Build a Powerful Movement!

Below are some suggestions for participation

For organizations with:	Turnout to a key event	Generating emails or calls
< 50 members:	5	15
50-100 members:	10	25
> 100 members:	20+	30+
> 500 members:	50+	75+

Campaign Endorsement

____ Yes, my organization endorses the Campaign! **Date:** _____

Organization Name/School: _____

Contact Person: _____ **Title:** _____
(parent, teacher, student, community advocate, etc.)

Email/Phone: _____

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www.transformbaltimore.org or email transform.bmore@gmail.com