



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

MAYORAL CANDIDATE: DAVID WARNOCK, DEMOCRAT

<http://davidwarnockforbaltimore.com/>

1. Please articulate your overall vision for how young people will be supported from cradle to career in Baltimore City? What will be the priority strategies within your first four years in implementing this vision?

Quality education creates opportunity, and every child in Baltimore deserves a school where they can learn, grow and thrive. Politicians have failed Baltimore City's public school students. To get Baltimore's students on a path to success, we have to strengthen public schools in every neighborhood.

My priority strategies are:

1. Increase the number of community schools from 56 this year to 122 in 2017, with the goal of making every school a community school by 2023.
2. Bring the number of third graders reading at grade level on par with the state average, to 37% from 11 %, by 2023.
3. Double the number of after school slots available, and raise \$25.5M to ensure every student in middle school has access to afterschool programming.
4. Increase college completion rates by 50%.
5. Enroll 1,000 additional students in dual credit programs by 2019, where students can earn credits toward both high school graduation and a college degree.
6. Expand individualized student success plans for every student, which was piloted at Green Street Academy, the charter school I founded, to 12 additional schools.

I will be a mayor who is going to hold our school system accountable for getting those things done. You can read my full education plan here:

http://davidwarnockforbaltimore.com/wpcontent/uploads/2016/03/David_Warnock_Education_Policy_Paper.pdf.

2. The Mayor and City Council do not currently have oversight authority over Baltimore City Public Schools. Would you advocate changing the current city/state partnership? What changes would you recommend to the overall administration/approach of public education in Baltimore City?

Across the country, school districts are innovating for improved educational outcomes and more efficient operations. Changing the current city-state partnership isn't necessary to do that. The current partnership gives the authority for appointing school board members jointly to Baltimore's Mayor and to the Governor of Maryland. But it's not about authority – it's about taking responsibility. As Mayor, I'd take responsibility for the outcomes of our school system – and work tirelessly to make sure we're making gains in every measure of student success, no matter who appoints the school board. But even more broadly, parents and community members should have more of a say in what happens in their local school. For that reason, I support a partially elected Board of School Commissioners, and when I'm mayor, I'll make partially elected school board legislation a part of the Mayor's official



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Baltimore City Legislative Agenda. Parents, not status-quo politicians, should decide our children's future – and Baltimore City should be a leader in efforts to accomplish that.

3. Eighty percent of a young person's life is spent outside of school, yet just 15% of Baltimore's school aged young people have access to afterschool programs. City leaders from around the country have begun to identify the importance of afterschool and summer programs as a critical support and have invested in citywide systems. Participation in out-of-school time opportunities boosts academics, attendances, school promotion and completion and it helps connects young people to caring adults. If elected, what would your approach be to addressing opportunities for youth beyond the school day and school year?

Ensuring young people have opportunities for enrichment and employment outside of the school day is critical to keeping children on the path to success. My priority strategies are:

1. Make resources available for afterschool programming. That's why every public school in Baltimore should be a community school where families have the resources and support they need to set their child on a path to success, including out-of-school activities.
2. Increase funding for afterschool programming, including raising \$25.5M from public and private sources to ensure every student in middle school – when strong support and guidance are critical – has access to afterschool programming.
3. Fully fund YouthWorks to accommodate every student who applies and reduce the youth unemployment rate, which will require meaningful partnership with employers and other private sector partners.

Students who are enrolled in afterschool activities are more likely to attend school, and have lower chronic absence rates. Investing in afterschool is an investment in the future of Baltimore – it's an investment we can't afford not to make.

4. In the 70's and 80's Baltimore operated around 130 recreation centers. That decreased by nearly half by the early 90's. Currently, Recreation & Parks operates just 40 recreation centers. There are ongoing questions about the available resources of the Department based on the lack of audits. Some of the recreation centers require major upgrades in both physical plant and programming. While a few new, modern recreation centers and being built, it is clear that many neighborhoods lack quality recreational opportunities. How would you change the trajectory of Recreation and Parks? How will you address the challenges of programming and physical plants?

The primary mission of Baltimore City's Department of Recreation and Parks is to provide quality recreational programs – and yet the department hasn't had meaningful investment in a generation. We have to reinvest in this critical agency. I would make Recreation and Parks a priority by:

1. Increasing funding for the agency, including fully funding programming and recreational activities.
2. Encouraging and promoting more public-private partnerships, like the Mt. Vernon Conservancy or Digital Harbor Foundation, to encourage private investment in the department's green spaces and recreation centers.



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3. Annual, independent, and public audits of Recreation and Parks so that we fully understand the department's spending, root out waste and corruption, and invest in priorities like afterschool programming.

5. Young people want jobs and they are natural entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, youth unemployment is at an all time high and young people are denied the experiences and skills they need to be prepared to enter the workforce. If elected, what will be your approach to youth employment and entrepreneurship? How will you partner with Higher Education and Industry?

To ensure a bright future for our city, young people have to leave Baltimore's school system equipped with the skills they need to succeed in college, and in the workforce. To do that – especially to teach entrepreneurship – we have to meaningfully partner with the private sector. First, we need to work with businesses to ensure Baltimore City's career education programs are aligned with private sector employment needs. We also have to work with colleges and universities to enroll more Baltimore City public school students in dual credit programs – my goal would be to get 1,000 students dual enrolled by 2019.

We have to engage our private sector employers, and to fully fund YouthWorks so that every young person in Baltimore has access to summer, and afterschool, employment, which will work to reduce the total youth unemployment rate in Baltimore – currently more than 40% for youth ages 16 to 19 – in each of the next five years.

We also need to invest in student entrepreneurship in the classroom, getting our businesses involved in community schools in a way that creates both educational opportunities for students and streams of income for our schools. Green Street Academy Farms, and programs like Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, are excellent examples of the impact this can have on both students and schools. For Baltimore's students to compete in a global workforce, we have to use every tool in our toolbox – and partnering with partners in the business community is a critical part of that plan.

6. The resilient young people of Baltimore City experience trauma every day. They are both witness to and victims of violence. They have very real reasons to feel stressed and afraid. A growing body of research recognizes the importance of understanding and implementing trauma informed care within schools, community services, social services, and law enforcement. What approaches will you take, if elected, to implement trauma-informed-care and/or restorative practices in the public sectors?

Too many of our students are coming to school having experienced trauma. Since the beginning of the school year, four students at Green Street Academy, the charter school I co-founded, have lost their fathers to gun violence. It's difficult to understand what these children are going through, much less expect them to be able to learn. We have to address this issue in our schools, to ensure every child feels supported and safe, and making every school a community school is the first step. Community schools will bring resources directly to families and children in Baltimore's neighborhoods by relocating city, nonprofit and faith-based services – including mental health services and trauma-informed care – directly into our school buildings. We have to make sure these resources are used wisely, and ensure



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that students who have experienced trauma not only receive services immediately, but that we also continue to provide comprehensive care that stays in place over time.

We can't allow students – especially those experiencing some of the most difficult, traumatic situations imaginable – to fall through the cracks, and bringing services directly to our school buildings – and making sure that we continue to care for these students – is a step in the right direction.

7. In 2014, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake, with the support of City Council, established one of the strictest youth curfew laws in the nation and advocated for year round curfew centers. Proponents of the curfew centers thought they were a good strategy to keep kids safe and to connect young people and their families to services. Opponents feared the curfew enforcement would further strain police community relations and disproportionately target young people of color. Questions remain about the actual utilization of the curfew centers and whether or not the “Youth Connection Centers” serve their intended purpose. If you are elected, what would your position on Curfew and Curfew Centers be? How would you build more positive interactions between youth and law enforcement?

Curfew centers have fallen short of their intended purpose in Baltimore – they don't prevent youth crime, don't typically result in youth accessing the services that are necessary to succeed, and they're known for causing an increase in unnecessary youth contact with the police. Across the country, other cities are innovating beyond the curfew center concept – cities like Albuquerque, NM have had success with reception centers, which provide on-demand shelter for homeless youth and immediate counseling and mental health services. To rebuild the relationship between youth and police, and to create trust between young people and law enforcement, we need to focus on positive interactions – reopening Baltimore's PAL centers, restoring police districts so that they are community centers, and getting more of our cops living in Baltimore's neighborhoods. When it comes to the relationship between youth and police, prevention is better than cure.

8. The parents and families of young people are often left out of the equation when we are seeking solutions. Family and community engagement requires long term, sustained efforts to build trust and offer authentic opportunities for families to have a voice and feel supported. The Community School strategy has been shown to increase family and community engagement and improve school climate and culture. The city funded community school strategy is currently operating in 50 schools out of 180. Do you think every school should be a community school? How would you expand the strategy?

Yes. I believe every school should be a community school, and when I'm mayor, I'm committed to doubling the number of Baltimore City public schools that are designated as community schools to 122 by 2019, with the goal of making every public school a community school by 2023. Families and children do better when there are afterschool programs, healthcare, mental health resources, adult education, workforce training and community services available right there, in each neighborhood. When every public school is a community school, children and families can get more than a good education – they can get the resources they need to succeed.



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9. The Baltimore City Health Department provides chilling statistics in its 2014 Health Disparities Report. Factors of race, gender, economics, and zip code can all be determining factors for a short and painful life, and the trajectories begin even before birth. Given what we know now about what works, how will you approach making sure every child has the opportunity to grow up to become a healthy adult?

No child in Baltimore should have their life expectancy dictated by their zip code. This is why a citywide community schools expansion is so powerful – it can ensure that every child has the resources necessary to succeed. Through my community schools strategy, we will:

- Create access to a high-quality education that will help prepare every child for success in college, and the workforce, with an individualized plan for success, giving students the toolkit to thrive after graduation.
- Make sure every child and family have access to the case management, mental health services, housing services, lead paint testing and preventative health screenings provided by city and state agencies like the Department of Social Services and the Baltimore City Health Department, right inside a community school.
- Deliver access to exercise and healthy living through partnerships with nonprofit organizations that focus on nutritious foods, staying active, and helping students take a holistic approach to health and wellness that includes taking care of mind, body and soul. When teachers, parents and the community collaborate in the best interest of every child, whole communities begin to thrive – and we begin to change the inevitability of outcomes that are tied to where we were born.

10. The bright green footprints painted on Baltimore City sidewalks are supposed to denote safe walking passageways for children to get to school. However well intentioned, the reality is that in many neighborhoods there are no safe passageways, and green footprints cut through active drug and gang territory. With schools of choice, some older students are traveling more than 2 hours both morning and evening on unreliable and sometime unsafe public transportation. What will you do when elected to make sure young people can make it to school every day safely?

To move our city forward, we've got to make Baltimore a safer place to live, work and raise a family, and that means making sure our children are safe on the way to school. First, we have to keep our neighborhoods safe. In the long term, being tough on crime isn't enough. We have to be smart on crime, and that means we have to build strong relationships between students and law enforcement, inside and outside of our schools, through PAL centers, youth leagues with activities that build long-term relationships, and encourage more officers to live in the city and have greater investments in our city's children. We also need to increase job programs and training for youth, working with local churches and businesses to expand youth mentorship programs, and give young people the education and training that are necessary to become a part of Baltimore's workforce. It's about jobs and opportunity. When we create options and provide alternatives to crime for our city's young people, we all win. We also need to have safe, improved public transit for our city's children, and that means being a leader in Annapolis to build a regional transportation system that will serve the residents of Baltimore decades into the future.

Lastly, private-public partnerships with community, nonprofit and faith-based organizations should be used to ensure safe routes to school – whether it's transportation programs like rides in church vans, or



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volunteers that can help our youngest children get to school safely. We have to use all the tools in our toolbox to make sure students can get to school safely, so they can learn, grow and thrive.