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City Council to focus on dropout prevention

October 22, 2008

City Council President Stephanie C. Rawlings-Blake is pushing a targeted dropout-prevention program for students entering the sixth and ninth grades in hopes of keeping them on solid academic footing during a crucial period in their development. The City Council's Education Committee has scheduled a hearing today on the proposed resolution, which would urge the school system to identify at-risk students in the fifth and eighth grades and provide counseling and other support to them in the summer before their sixth- and ninth-grade years. A recent study by the America's Promise Alliance found that the disparity in high school graduation rates between Baltimore City and Baltimore County is the largest between a city and its suburbs in the United States. "Baltimore City Public Schools continue to make significant progress, but, we need to do more to close the achievement gap between city and county school students," Rawlings-Blake said in a news release.

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