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Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.

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CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RENEWS CALL FOR TEACH FOR AMERICA FUNDING AS DEADLINE LOOMS

Rawlings-Blake says a portion of the city's undesignated surplus could fill gap in funding

BALTIMORE—Today, at a meeting of the City's Board of Estimates, Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake renewed her call for the Dixon Administration to support the City School System's ambitious plan to expand Teach for America's program in Baltimore. The organization has raised all but \$350,000 of the \$3.8 million needed to double the number of Teach for America teachers in city classrooms over the next two years. Rawlings-Blake said the funding gap presents an opportunity for city government to invest one-time surplus funds into the program.

Despite a very successful multi-million dollar private fundraising effort, Teach for America needs an additional \$350,000 to expand the number of Teach for America teachers in city schools from 170 to 300 by 2010. 122 new Teach for America teachers have already been placed at a recent city school job fair. If the additional funds are not raised by the July 1st deadline, Teach for America will be forced to redeploy teachers away from Baltimore to other school systems.

"We are so close to achieving this goal to vastly expand a vital component for public education reform in Baltimore," Rawlings-Blake said. "It would be a great tragedy to have to turn these talented new teachers away from our public schools because we came up a little short. It is time for city government to do its part to fill this gap in funding."

"City government must continue to make smart, innovative investments to improve public education in Baltimore," Rawlings-Blake said. "Throughout this year's budget process, I have personally communicated the importance of Teach for America to the Mayor. The money is there. We need to do this."

Teach for America is the national corps of outstanding recent college graduates who commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools and become lifelong leaders in expanding educational opportunity. This year was Teach for America's largest Baltimore corps to date, with 170 of the nation's most promising future leaders teaching to over 12,000 students in the Baltimore City Public School System.

A recent Urban Institute study is part of a growing body of evidence demonstrating that Teach for America is having a positive impact on student achievement. The study notes "Teach for America (TFA) teachers tend to have a positive effect on high school student test scores relative to non-TFA teachers, including those who are certified in-field. Such effects exceed the impact of additional years of experience and are particularly strong in math and science."

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