

the twelve data based areas for assessed student knowledge and student participation. This is significantly lower than statewide performance levels. The inability of Baltimore City Schools to achieve satisfactory performance levels is of particular concern because the City receives approximately 20 percent of the total State education aid.

The General Assembly therefore supports the efforts of the Baltimore City Public School System to implement the recommendations of an independent management study of the Baltimore City Public Schools. The General Assembly notes that the Baltimore City Public School System is the only local educational agency in Maryland to participate in an extensive management study and that the problems of Baltimore City are not unlike those faced by most urban school systems. The Department of Fiscal Services has recommended that the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) take a more active role in monitoring the effectiveness of school reform efforts such as the one in Baltimore City. The General Assembly concurs with this recommendation, and further agrees that MSDE should monitor, evaluate and comment upon any significant reform efforts undertaken by Maryland school systems.

In order to assist in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the management study prepared by Towers Perrin/Cresap, the Baltimore City Public School System and the Maryland State Department of Education shall enter into a three year agreement to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the recommendations. The General Assembly is particularly interested in seeing the Baltimore City Public School System adopt recommendations to implement a system wide personnel evaluation program for teachers, principals and administrators