

also allows for the termination of poor performing employees. The Baltimore City Public School System and the Maryland State Department of Education shall submit a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations to the budget committees by November 15, 1993.

The budget committees are concerned about the level of student performance in Baltimore City. The Maryland School Performance Reports for the past three years indicate that the Baltimore City Public Schools have only achieved a satisfactory rating in one of the twelve data base 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 to the committees because the City receives approximately 20 percent of the total State education aid.

The budget committees therefore support 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 committees note 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 take a more active role in monitoring the effectiveness of school reform efforts such as the one in Baltimore City. The budget committees concur with this recommendation, and further agree that MSDE should monitor, evaluate and comment upon any significant reform efforts undertaken by Maryland school systems.