

## Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly remains concerned about the progress of the Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) in implementing a plan of school management reforms, including the creation of a network of enterprise schools; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly remains concerned about the ability of the Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) leadership to manage State and local resources and the impact that deficiency has on the classroom and student performance of BCPS students; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Although progress is being made in certain areas, for the sixth consecutive year, the 1995 Maryland School Performance Report indicates that performance of BCPS students was far lower, and in some areas declining, when compared to the performance of students in similarly challenged jurisdictions and students statewide; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In 1991, in consultation and cooperation with the Board of School Commissioners and the superintendent, Associated Black Charities commissioned an international management consulting firm, Towers Perrin/Cresap, to conduct a management study of the BCPS; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The final report released in June, 1992, raised serious issues about the management of the BCPS and offered numerous recommendations and strategies to restructure the management system into a network of enterprise schools, in which resources are focused at the school level and principals are given greater authority to manage their schools; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In August, 1992, the superintendent of the BCPS endorsed all but six of the Cresap recommendations to restructure the BCPS' management system into a network of enterprise schools, and appointed an implementation team and an enterprise school group to oversee implementation; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In April, 1993, the Maryland General Assembly endorsed the Cresap report by including a provision in the State budget bill requiring the BCPS and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to enter into a three-year agreement to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Cresap recommendations, including the recommendation to implement a merit-based, systemwide personnel evaluation system for teachers, principals, and administrators; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In July, 1993, the agreement was signed by the State Superintendent and the BCPS superintendent, with the caveat that recommendations deemed inappropriate or not feasible, based on a written explanation by the BCPS, would not be implemented, and a requirement that MSDE and the BCPS mutually agree on the selection of a third party to conduct an independent evaluation of BCPS' progress in implementing the recommendations by June 30, 1994; and~~

~~WHEREAS, In January, 1994, a public meeting was held to hear a report on the BCPS' progress at which the private sector team leaders appointed by MSDE to help the BCPS facilitate the implementation of the Cresap recommendations revealed that few~~