

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor, City of Baltimore

Linda Chinnia
Chair, Baltimore City Board
of School Commissioners

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

May 6, 2021

Dear Baltimore School for the Arts Families, Students, and Staff,

We appreciate the tremendous courage of current and former BSA students who have already shared accounts of deeply disturbing incidents of sexual harassment and misconduct. We are eager to provide additional opportunities to ensure that the voices of students, as well as families and staff, are heard and your concerns are addressed.

As part of our investigation of incidents of sexual harassment and misconduct at BSA, Baltimore City Public Schools' Department of Fair Practices will offer virtual office hours. Office hours will be conducted by myself and other staff in the Department of Fair Practices, who are trained and experienced in conducting sexual harassment and misconduct investigations.

Here are the dates and times for the virtual office hours, as well as Teams links:

Tuesday, May 11, 4 to 6 p.m. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 846 7659 8587 - Passcode: 303182

Wednesday, May 13, 4 to 6 p.m. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 854 8425 4581 - Passcode: 502523

Wednesday, May 18, 4 to 6 p.m. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 874 5440 7906 - Passcode: 260672

Any students, family members, or staff who wants to share your concerns or experiences with the Department of Fair Practices can enter the waiting room, and we will meet with you individually. Students are welcome to bring a parent, guardian, advocate, or trusted friend to the virtual office hours.

As shared in City Schools' recent letter, dated April 23, 2021, the purpose of the investigation is to make sure there is appropriate accountability for anyone who has perpetrated sexual harassment and misconduct as well as anyone – including staff members – who may have mishandled a complaint or retaliated against a survivor. Equally important, the investigation will help identify remedies to effectively address the impact of misconduct on the BSA community and to prevent future occurrences. By the end of the school year, City Schools will provide a summary of our investigation of these incidents.

The Department of Fair Practices will share information from these virtual office hours only on a need-to-know basis and solely for investigative purposes. The Department of Fair Practices will

arrange to follow up confidentially with the parent or guardian of a current student who files a formal complaint of sexual harassment or misconduct.

In addition to these virtual office hours, there are other ways to participate in the Department of Fair Practices' investigation. You may submit a report directly to the BSA school administration. Alternatively, you may:

- Complete the online bullying, harassment, and intimidation form at <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/bullying>.
- Make a report directly to the Title IX Coordinator in the City Schools' Department of Fair Practices by phone at 410-396-8542, or email: eeo-titleixcompliance@bcps.k12.md.us.
- Additionally, if you wish to report illegal or inappropriate activity by a staff member, including but not limited to harassment or violation of City Schools policies or procedures, you may make a report by calling the Staff Investigations Unit at 443-642-4935, calling the district's Fraud Hotline at 1-800-679-0185, or submitting a report online.

Given the volume of information and the need to conduct a thorough review, we will not be able to follow up immediately on every complaint, and it may be difficult to respond to anonymous social media posts or those where we do not have up-to-date contact information. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if you have filed a complaint and you have not yet received an acknowledgment from the Department of Fair Practices, or if you shared your story on Instagram and you would like to provide additional information, including current contact information.

If you have any questions, you can reach me directly by email at jehrenfeld@bcps.k12.md.us, or by phone at 443-682-3121.

Sincerely,

Jane Ehrenfeld

Jane Ehrenfeld
Director of Fair Practices & Compliance
Baltimore City Public Schools