

# RESOLUTION

## COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

**WHEREAS**, there has been an increasing emphasis on standards, accountability, and excellence in education; and legislatures, school boards, and parents have all demanded better outcomes from public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, quality instruction is essential and provides the opportunity for a student to develop academic and lifetime skills and offers opportunities for a student's maximum growth and development necessary for that student to become a responsible citizen in a free society and a global community; and

**WHEREAS**, students who perform poorly or have difficulty in the mainstream educational environment experience greater incidence of academic underachievement, school failure and dropout, unemployment, adolescent parenthood, welfare dependence and trouble with the law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harford County Public Schools experiences a 2.84% drop out rate which is effectively 600 students annually and, whereas the African-American students represent a 4.06% drop out rate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Harford County Public Schools employs the services of a non-public agency to educate high intensity students and many of those students travel a lengthy distance to their educational facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Federation of Teachers has estimated that the additional dollars spent on each student attending an alternative school, the public annually gains \$14,000 in student learning time that would have been lost, \$2,800 in reduced grade repetition costs, \$1,750 in reduced welfare cost and \$1,500 in reduced prison costs for a total savings of \$18,300 per student; and

**WHEREAS**, educational opportunities for students in the public schools are dependant on enabling each student with the educational resources he needs to succeed, and current school reform must concentrate on what has to change for each student to do as well as he can

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. believes that every child must be provided with sound general education and relevant skills which will prepare him to pursue a career or further academic training and to become responsible citizens in a free society in the global community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc encourages the Board of Education of Harford County to establish a Community Learning Center that employs strategies to engage learners who may require additional educational needs; to serve students who are not successful in the mainstream educational environment and who require additional opportunities to complete graduation requirements because of work schedule, family needs, or teenage pregnancy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Community Learning Center should provide opportunities for citizens who want to complete requirements in pursuit of a high school diploma and to provide for an opportunity to serve as a community focal point for programs, activities and services for senior county residents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Harford County Council of PTA, Inc. encourages the federal, state, and local officials to support the funding of a Community Learning Center and that the business community of Harford County engage in a productive partnership to create a Community Learning Center that supports the needs of citizens of Harford County.

ADOPTED 10.21.04