The Baltimore Elementary and Middle School Library Project (the Library Project), now involving more than 40 community and government partners, including the State of Maryland and Baltimore City Public Schools, transforms inner city school libraries to improve academic achievement. The Weinberg Foundation has committed $10 million, of the total $30 million project investment, to design, build, equip, and staff up to 24 new libraries where public funds can be leveraged. These projects include funding for construction, the latest learning technologies, thousands of new books, additional support staff, and professional development. Since 2011, the Library Project has created 13 renovated spaces serving more than 6,000 students and their families year round throughout Baltimore City.

Numerous national studies document the critical importance of childhood literacy for future academic and life success. The Weinberg Foundation is adding to this body of research through an ongoing evaluation, which continues to demonstrate the Library Project’s impact on academic achievement:

- Book checkouts at the first nine schools increased by 400 percent over a four-year period.
- Reading fluency scores among third grade students in two of the first three Library Project schools rose from 33 percent of students at benchmark to 64 percent at benchmark—a 94 percent increase.*
- Library Project students in the third grade were almost three times as likely to meet reading fluency proficiency standards as students in comparison schools.
- The first three Library Project schools outperformed more than 120 Baltimore City Public Schools on PARCC tests in reading proficiency.

The Library Project is sending a simple but powerful message to the students of Baltimore City—that each child deserves the best.

*Reading fluency measured through DIBELS; the third school did not collect this data.
Amazing transformations

The Historic Samuel Coleridge-Taylor Elementary School

Inspiring, well-equipped, well-staffed spaces

George Washington Elementary School
Hampden Elementary/Middle School
Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School
Morrell Park Elementary/Middle School
Arlington Elementary/Middle School
Moravia Park Elementary School

To see more, please visit www.baltimorelibraryproject.org.