It’s all for the children they say! Home is where the heart is! Is that really the case though when it comes to children going to schools surrounded by vacant households? Excuse us Board of Education but we would like to speak about how students’ attendance rates being affected by that of vacant households. We know that your goal is for every student to succeed by any means and we have expressed a data analysis that may lead to the establishing of another means of helping the children. In Baltimore city, there are over 300,000 unused buildings, which continue to only serve negatively towards the communities. They’re plots of land that can’t be legally lived in, they’re health risks involved especially when it comes to their natural decomposition, and most importantly, they pose a psychological threat to children. We don’t want children falling behind in classes from stuff that can be avoided as through the destruction or repurposing of vacant housing; Baltimore needs their hopeful youth to progress the future of the city. With attendance rates being affected by just the placement of vacant housing in the area, do you think that students will learn well in that type of environment?

Vacant buildings are legally buildings that have know ownership although the homeless still sometimes can be found there, young or old. Be that as it may, it does have a presence in the public eye. Based on our findings, we learned that the buildings not being used for anything do have some type of impact on the students. We compared the rates of attendance of schools to that of vacancy and notice an inverse relationship that was constant throughout all schools in Baltimore. This means that students have been affected over the course of four years minimum and probably for an even longer time. Knowing also the decrease in attendance rate, it can be inferred that the students aren’t learning. With lowered attendance means less teaching being done. The vacancy correlation may not have been a constant level, most likely because of how the city is situated and the various purposes each building held in the community that lead to its abandonment, it still shows that as vacancy in an area of Baltimore rose there was a definitive decrease in attendance.

Now that it has been explain of how attendance and vacant housing correlated, action needs to be done to prevent this scenario. We believe that useful options may be to renovate, destroy, or rebuild the vacant buildings. They may now currently serve no space but that could be changed to the positive benefits of the school. An old house can be used to create forms of recreation like parks or playgrounds which could actually attract students to attend their local schools. Or another way to help with the vacancy problem is actually to see if they students not going to school are those that don’t have a home. It is not unreasonable for the data to point to students actually dropping out because they can’t afford to attend school. Work could be done for those specific families that don’t have homes, mostly likely through renovation of the vacant buildings closer to the schools for easier access for the students. The data is broad which leaves for interpretation.

In general the area have to have work done to them that provides a source of psychological happiness which would positively impact the urban around that they are contained in. If not this problem can persist for years and maybe generations if vacancy doesn’t stop being a widespread issue. We know that you, The Board of Education, can’t do much to actually change the geographical area. Maybe you have reigns to move schooling but you can't destroy a building. With knowing this, we also wanted to implore you to bring this data to the local government who can get contractors to perform demolition or renovation of new projects that would be of positive influence. This may seem too much, but remember it’s all for the children. They are the future of Baltimore as they will be future educators passing on the knowledge that they were able to learn through trade, school, or whatever in between. Might as well have the information that they spread to other generations be positive and represent Baltimore positively in the eye of America. Vacant housing should stop the collective intellectual advancement of Baltimore through its younger generation.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16uJfIphcqO7WKIuKOo9xYbp3jRLKUtnPdztsWWrVyZA/edit?usp=sharing>