



**Priorities & Perspectives
on Funding & Policy
Issues
2018-2019**

2018 Session Overview

- The 2018 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly convened on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 and adjourned “sine die” at midnight on Monday April 9, 2018. The session saw the introduction of 1,846 House bills and 1,280 Senate bills.
- Of these 3,126 bills and resolutions, MABE tracked more than 400 bills, and provided testimony and advocated on nearly 80 House bills and more than 60 Senate Bills.



State Aid for Public Education in FY 2019

State Operating Budget for Education

([SB 185](#)) (Administration)

- The FY 2019 State Budget totals \$44.6 billion, and includes the State education aid for FY 2019 to fund public schools for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Maryland's 24 local school systems will receive \$5.8 billion in FY 2019, and overall direct aid to local school systems will increase by \$170.6 million, or 3%.
- Funded Programs: Foundation, Compensatory, Limited English Proficient, Aging Schools, Special Education, Transportation, Geographic Cost of Education Index, Guaranteed Tax Base, Supplemental Grants, and others.

Pre-Kirwan Commission - Cost Study

- In 2014 the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) contracted with national consultants to conduct a comprehensive adequacy cost study.
- Augenblick, Palaich and Associates (APA) issued its final “Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State of Maryland” in November 2016.
- The study recommended changes to the methods used to determine local wealth; regional cost adjustments; student enrollment; transportation aid; and per pupil weights for limited English proficient, special education, compensatory education, and PreK programs.
- The total costs to close the adequacy gap include a \$1.9 billion increase in state funding for major state education programs over FY 2015 amounts, an increase of 39 percent; and a \$1 billion increase in local government funding, an increase of 19 percent.

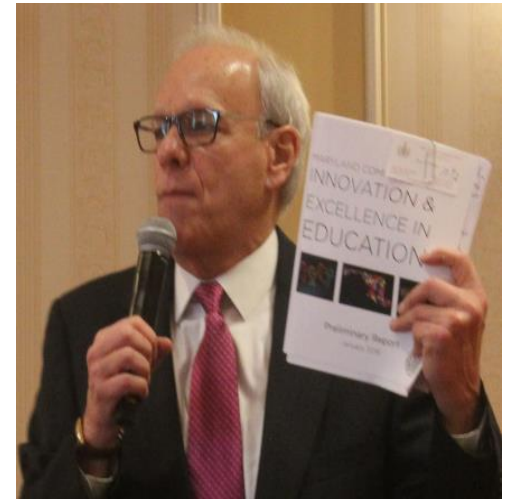
The Kirwan Commission

The Kirwan Commission's Preliminary Report provides detailed recommendations in 5 major policy areas and “cross-walked” them with NCEE's Framework and 9 Building Blocks.

Main Policy Areas

1. Early Childhood Education
2. Ample Supply of Highly Qualified and Diverse Teachers and School Leaders
3. College and Career Readiness Pathways
4. More Resources for At-risk Students
5. Governance and Accountability

The Kirwan Commission's Final Report is intended to propose major funding and policy reform legislation in 2019.



Kirwan on Early Education

- Expand full-day Pre-K at no cost for four-year-olds and three-year-olds from families with incomes up to 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (approximately \$75,000 for a family of four), and for four-year-olds from families with incomes between 300% and 600% FPL (approximately \$75,000 to \$150,000 for a family of four) using a sliding scale.
- The State will require that a minimum percentage of full-day pre-K slots in each local education agency be provided in participating community-based settings. This minimum requirement will be phased-in over the 10 year period in 10% per year increments in years one through four, and remain constant at 50% beginning in year five.

Kirwan on Teacher Prep & Pay

- Higher paid, better educated, more rigorously trained teachers and principals.
- Raise standards for licensing new teachers in MD to levels comparable to the standards for teachers in the top performing nations. Teachers will be required to pass a test of teaching ability to earn a Maryland license.
- Raise teacher pay to make it equitable with other highly trained professionals with the same amount of education.
- Formula funding will support increases to teacher pay under the career ladder.

Kirwan on College & Career Readiness

- Develop a fully aligned instructional system, including curriculum, course syllabi and assessments, to ensure students are on track for College and Career Readiness.
- Implement a 10th grade assessment program in English Reading/Language Arts, Government, Science, and Algebra to demonstrate CCR.
- All students meeting the CCR standard will have options to enter career technical education (CTE) or advanced college preparatory programs, in high schools, higher ed, or workplaces.
- Develop 11th and 12th grade programs for students who do not meet the CCR standard by the end of 10th grade.
- Shift control of the CTE program from MSDE to the Governor's office/Workforce Development Board.

Kirwan on Increasing Per Pupil Funding

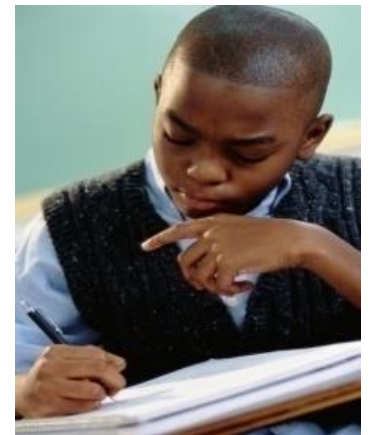
- Increase the base per pupil foundation amount for all students.
- Increase funding through the additional compensatory education weight for economically disadvantaged students.
- Add a concentrated poverty weight to the funding formula to support intensive services for students and their families to enable them to succeed in school.
- Significantly increase the funding formula weight for special education students.
- Increase funding through the formula weight for English Learner students.
- Increase funding for staff training to recognize mental health issues and coordinate access to services.

Education Funding & Policy

Commercial Gaming Revenues Constitutional Amendment Lockbox

([SB 1122](#)) (Sen. Conway)

- This bill proposes an amendment to the Maryland State Constitution to convert the Education Trust Fund (ETF) as a repository of gaming revenue which may be supplanted, into a source of supplemental education funding which must be included in the Governor's annual state budgets in excess of what is otherwise mandated by school funding formulas.
- If approved by the voters at the 2018 general election, the constitutional amendment would require the Governor to provide supplemental education funding.



FY 2019 Capital Budget

The State Capital Budget Bill

([SB 186](#)) ([CH0009](#)) (Administration)

- Public school facility funding for FY 2019 totals just over \$408 million the capital budget includes:
- \$313 million for the Public School Construction Program.
- \$68.2 million for Supplemental Capital Grant Program for certain Local School Systems
- \$10 million for Public School Safety Improvements through the design, construction, and capital equipping of safety improvements at public school buildings.
- \$10 million for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Improvements in Baltimore City public school buildings.
- \$6.1 million for the Aging Schools Program.

School Facility Funding & Policy

21st Century School Facilities Act (Knott Commission)

([HB 1783](#) / [SB 1243](#)) (Del. Jones / Sen. DeGrange)

- This bill makes comprehensive changes to public school construction funding and approval processes in the State, including:
 - Altering the name, composition, and role of the Interagency Committee on School Construction;
 - Requiring periodic public school facilities assessments;
 - Streamlining the State approval process for school construction projects; and
 - Providing at least \$400 million for public school construction annually as soon as practicable.
- The bill requires an additional \$10 million in mandated funding for FY 2020 and beyond for the new School Safety Grant Program.

School Facility Funding & Policy

Healthy School Facility Fund – Established

(SB 611) (Sen. Conway)

- This emergency bill establishes the Healthy School Facility Fund within the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) to provide grants to public schools to improve the health of school facilities. The Governor must appropriate \$30 million for the fund in FY 2020 and 2021, which must be in addition to funds that would otherwise be appropriated for public schools.
- The IAC must prioritize grants based on the severity of issues in the school, including 1. air-conditioning; 2. heating; 3. indoor air quality; 4. mold remediation; 5. temperature regulation; 6. plumbing; and 7. windows.
- No jurisdiction may receive more than \$15 million in a given fiscal year.

School Safety & Security

Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018

([SB 1265](#)) (Sen. Klausmeier)

- This bill makes comprehensive changes designed to improve the safety of the State's public schools.
- It enhances the presence of school resource officers (SROs) and/or local law enforcement in or near public schools and requires SROs to complete specialized training.
- It establishes a School Safety Subcabinet, which also serves as the governing board for the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS). The mandated appropriation for MCSS operations is increased from \$500,000 to at least \$2.0 million.
- It establishes a Safe Schools Fund to make grants to local school systems to assist in implementing the bill's provisions.
- The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.

Safe to Learn Act - Timelines

Assessment Teams

- **Sept. 1, 2018**
Model Policy for Assessment Teams Adopted by Subcabinet
- **Sept. 1, 2019**
School Systems to adopt local policy consistent with model policy

School Resource Officers (SROs)

- **Sept. 1, 2018**
SRO curriculum to be adopted by the Subcabinet and approved by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission
- **Dec. 15, 2018**
Center to collect data on SROs and develop guidelines for LEAs on appropriate number of SROs and adequate law enforcement coverage
- **July 1, 2019**
LEAs to develop plan to implement SRO guidelines and submit plan for Center review and comment
- **Sept. 1, 2019**
SROs and other school security personnel to be trained under the new curriculum

Active Shooter Preparedness

- **2018-2019 School Year**
Homeland Security Active Shooter Preparedness Program incorporated in existing emergency drills

Safety Evaluations

- **June 15, 2019**
School facility safety evaluations must be completed for all schools
- **Dec. 1, 2019**
MSDE must update Emergency Planning Guidelines
- **July 1, 2020**
LEAs must update local emergency plans

Mental Health Services

- **Sept. 1, 2018**
LEAs must designate a Mental Health Services Coordinator

Behavioral Assessment Teams

- **Sept. 1, 2018**

Model Policy for Assessment Teams Adopted by Subcabinet

- **Sept. 1, 2019**

School Systems to adopt local policy consistent with model policy



Safety Evaluations

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- **July 1, 2020**

LEAs must update local emergency plans

Mental Health Services

- **Sept. 1, 2018**

LEAs must designate a Mental Health Services Coordinator (who must develop plans for delivering services)

- **Dec. 1, 2018**

Safety Subcabinet to evaluate local plans and complete a mental health services gap analysis



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Safe to Learn Act – Grant Funding

Safe Schools Grant Fund – The FY 2019 Safe Schools Fund has \$10.6 million allocated by the Maryland Safe to Learn Act of 2018 in grant funding to enhance safety and security at public schools. The Fund is administered by the School Safety Subcabinet, and each local school system is eligible to receive a base grant amount of \$200,000 as well as a subsequent per pupil amount.

- To fund training for students and local school personnel; training for assessment teams; reporting mechanisms/technology; mental/behavioral health plan development & services; transportation and pedestrian safety.

School Facilities Safety Improvement Grants – The Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) recently approved the issuance of \$10 million of the \$20 million in school facilities safety improvement grants.

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