

For Immediate Release – Oct. 17, 2016

National Experts Recommend \$1.9 Billion Increase in Statewide School Funding

ANNAPOLIS, MD – On October 12, 2016, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) received a draft of the final report in which nationally recognized consultants recommend a \$1.9 billion increase in state education funding. In 2001, consultants made similarly bold recommendations and the General Assembly and Governors took courageous steps to fully fund the Bridge to Excellence Act. Today, 14 years later, the experts are recommending precisely how much state and local funding is enough to provide the adequate resources for all students across the state to succeed on Maryland's recently adopted College and Career Readiness Standards.

MABE applauds the draft adequacy study report for finding that current amounts of per pupil funding is inadequate for all students, and in need of dramatic increases for students receiving special education services, and for four-year old prekindergarten students. These recommendations address MABE's longstanding support for additional resources in these critical areas of need.

The consultant's draft report recommends major changes in the way school systems are funded, including a much higher per pupil amount for all students, less targeted funding for English language learners and students living below the federal poverty level, and more targeted funding for special education. The report also recommends major shifts in the relative role of state and local funding in each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions.

Board members on [MABE's Committee on School Funding Adequacy](#) met on Friday, October 14, 2016 and identified serious concerns with issues not adequately addressed or omitted in this draft of the final report. Such issues include the absence of funding recommendations to address concentrations of poverty, student transportation, school safety, school facilities operation and maintenance, the role of classroom instructional aides, and technology infrastructure and educational devices.

The consultant's recommendations, once finalized, will be "on the table" for consideration by not only the Governor and General Assembly, but also the newly formed [Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#), which must issue its final report by December 31, 2017. MABE's representative on this commission is MABE President Donna Brightman.

MABE looks forward to the work ahead to craft legislation that builds on these recommendations to phase-in the significant increases in education funding needed to support the college and career readiness of the more than 890,000 students educated in Maryland's public schools every day. Link: [Adequacy Study: Draft Final Report](#) (9/30/2016 - Prepared by APA Consulting for MSDE)

Contact: *John R. Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations*
jwoolums@mabe.org 410.841.5414, 800.841.8197, www.mabe.org

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Founded in 1957, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state. All 24 Maryland boards of education are members of MABE.