

January 18, 2019

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**Governor Releases State Budget for FY 2020**

Below are the pre-K to grade 12 education highlights of the FY 2020 State Budget ([SB 125/HB 100](#)) as outlined by the Governor on Friday, January 18 when the Budget was released. Highlights include a description of how the Governor proposes to allocate the first \$125 million installment of increased education funding from casino earnings, and the commitment to continue funding school safety grants for facilities and school resource officers.

The Governor’s capital budget ([SB 126/HB 101](#)) for school construction projects totals \$438.1 million, comprised of: \$280 million for the traditional public school construction program, \$65 million from dedicated education lockbox revenues, an additional \$43.5 million from the General Fund, \$40 million in supplemental funding for public school districts with high enrollment growth or relocatable classrooms, and a combined \$9.6 million between the Aging Schools and the Non-Public Aging Schools Programs.

**From the Governor’s Budget Highlights:**

Investing in Education:

- For the fifth consecutive year, the Hogan administration is providing record funding for K-12 education. The FY 2020 budget includes a \$6.9 billion state investment in Maryland’s public schools, fully funding state aid programs. Aid to local schools grows by \$347 million, the largest increase to date under Governor Hogan.
- The governor’s education budget goes above and beyond required statutory funding formulas to ensure that every Maryland jurisdiction receives more direct education aid than in FY 2019. Baltimore City will receive an additional \$11.1 million and Cecil County nearly \$800,000.
- This year’s school construction budget totals more than \$438 million, the most ever in one year.
- Consistent with passage of the constitutional amendment establishing the education “lockbox,” \$125 million in gaming revenues are dedicated to the following educational enhancements: \$65 million for school construction (including \$20 million to start a revolving loan fund to assist local

**Legislative Committee  
2019 Calendar**

- Feb. 4, 2019
  - FYI – ***MABE’s Legislative Day in Annapolis is February 21, 2019***
- Feb. 25, 2019
- March 11, 2019
- March 25, 2019
  - FYI – The 2019 legislative session ends at midnight on April 8, 2019
- April 29, 2019

MABE’s Legislative Committee meetings are held in the MABE office on Monday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00, unless otherwise indicated. Meeting agendas and materials are posted on the [MABE website](#).

jurisdictions), \$15 million for prekindergarten expansion, \$4.5 million for Learning in Extended Academic Programs (LEAP) to provide extended academic programming for at-risk students at schools, \$2.5 million for the Maryland Early Literacy Initiative, \$2 million for innovative Career Technology Education programs, \$250,000 to expand teacher recruitment and outreach, and \$35.8 million for future initiatives as determined by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education.

- In addition, \$200 million in state funding remains reserved to implement recommendations of the Kirwan Commission.
- The budget includes \$300,000 to establish three new P-TECH schools in Maryland, bringing total funding for P-TECH schools to \$1.2 million.
- \$20 million in state funding is included to expand access to prekindergarten throughout the state, bringing total state enhancement funding to \$43.5 million. Under the Hogan administration, state funding to expand access to prekindergarten education has grown by 1,011 percent.
- The Hogan administration has taken great strides this past year to enhance the Child Care Subsidy program, raising subsidy rates by 8 percent, eliminating the waitlist, and doubling income eligibility requirements. The FY 2020 budget includes an additional \$34 million for the program to implement these policy changes and further increase subsidy rates.
- State aid for local Head Start programs grows to \$3 million in FY 2020, an increase of \$1.2 million compared to FY 2019.
- The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program grows by \$3 million to \$10 million, fulfilling the governor's commitment to double funding for the program over three years. BOOST provides scholarships for low-income students from areas with underperforming schools to attend non-public schools, giving them the opportunity for a better education.

#### School Safety and Accountability:

- The FY 2020 budget continues Governor Hogan's commitment to supporting school safety with \$10 million in capital grants to local school systems to make safety-related improvements to school facilities; an additional \$3.5 million is included for safety improvements at non-public schools.
- \$10.6 million is provided for local school systems to hire school resource officers and to implement other best practices; approximately \$400,000 is provided to support new school resource officers at the Maryland School for the Deaf.
- The governor's budget doubles to \$2 million the amount available for upgrades and security personnel for schools and child care centers in Maryland deemed at-risk for hate crimes.
- An additional \$1.4 million and 11 positions are included to support the newly created Education Monitoring Unit and Office of Compliance and Oversight, enabling the Maryland State Department of Education and the State Board of Education to evaluate and investigate allegations of misconduct and corruption in local school systems.

Notably, the Governor's last highlight under School Safety and Accountability refers to his desire to establish an office of inspector general, which is the subject of his pending legislation, the [Accountability in Education Act](#) (SB 92/HB 45). MABE successfully opposed similar legislation in the 2018 session.

The following resources provide more detailed information on the FY 2020 State Budget: [Full text of Governor's FY 2020 budget highlights](#); [FY 2020 Education Funding by County](#); and the [Dept. of Budget and Management](#) website.

## School Calendar Flexibility Bill Introduced

On Friday, January 18 Senators Paul Pinsky (Chair of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee) and Nancy King (Chair of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee) introduced [Senate Bill 128](#) which includes the following, straightforward, provision: “NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW ... EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL SET THE START DATE AND END DATE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTY EACH YEAR.”

This bill represents MABE’s top legislative priority for the 2019 session regarding local board governance authority. MABE looks forward to supporting and securing passage of this bill.

## Kirwan Commission Approves Interim Report

On January 18, the [Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#) met to vote on the comprehensive recommendations contained in its Interim Report. The Commission deliberated through the afternoon to approve each of the following working group reports and other sections of the report. Joy Schaefer, Kirwan Commissioner and former MABE President, addressed several concerns with proposed language regarding mental health services, special education, and other areas. Also, she reiterated MABE’s objections to the proposal to establish a governing board separate from the State Board of Education with authority over implementation of the Commission’s recommendations. Similarly, Leslie Pellegrino, representing the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), raised objections to the recommendations for school finance reforms including that a significant share of funding “follow the child”. State Superintendent Karen Salmon voiced her objection to the report’s negative characterization of Maryland’s public schools. In response to these and other concerns, Dr. Kirwan informed the Commission that any minority statements should be submitted by close of business on Wednesday, January 24. He also urged members to vigorously support the vast majority of the report they do endorse.

The meeting concluded with nearly unanimous support for the adoption of the report and funding recommendations. Two members were absent, and both Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) representatives abstained due to the lack of clarity on the county share of the overall funding recommendations. Secretary of the Dept. of Budget and Management, David Brinkley, voted for the report, but abstained from the section containing the specific recommendations to mandate future funding amounts.

Below are the materials discussed and approved during the Kirwan Commission’s January 18 meeting. The Commission will not meet again until they reconvene in the fall to address the specific funding recommendations pertaining to the state and local share of implementing the \$3.8 billion in overall spending increases through FY 2030.

- [Outline](#)
- [Maryland's Education Call to Action 2019](#)
- [Closing the Gap: Starting Early, Continuing Support, Lasting Results](#)
- [Chapter 5. Policy Recommendations and Cost Estimates](#)
- [Policy Area 2: High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders](#)
- [Policy Area 3: College and Career Readiness Pathways](#)
- [Policy Area 4: More Resources to Ensure All Students Are Successful](#)
- [Policy Area 5: Governance and Accountability](#)
- [Total Estimated Additional Costs Policy Area 1 through 4](#)

- [Total Estimated Additional Costs Policy Area 5](#)
- [Funding Priorities and Next Steps](#)
- [FY 2020 Funding Priorities](#)
- [Miscellaneous Comments](#)

## **MABE Briefs Ways & Means Committee**

On January 15, MABE's President, Tolbert Rowe, and Legislative Committee Chair, Julie Hummer, briefed the House Ways and Means Committee on MABE's legislative priorities and positions for the 2019 session.

President Rowe presented MABE's mission and vision, informing the Committee that MABE provides the skills and knowledge required for our members to become effective leaders engaged in governance that promotes excellent public schools for all of Maryland's children.

Julie Hummer, as Legislative Committee Chair, outlined MABE's priorities on major funding and policy issues. She began by emphasizing MABE's support for continued governance autonomy for local boards of education to set education policy and school budgets; including support for enhanced local school board calendar flexibility. In addition, she highlighted the following priorities:

- Support for at least \$400 million in State funding for school construction and renovation projects.
- Support for increased funding for all students and targeted increases for prekindergarten, English learners, low-income students, and students receiving special education services.
- Support for increased funding for public education in the FY 2020 and FY 2021 State Budgets, including the investment of the \$200 million set aside last year, and full phase-in of dedicated gaming revenue in the Education Trust Fund.

Regarding the Kirwan Commission, Ms. Hummer shared MABE's support for the funding recommendations, including funding for enhanced CTE programs and significant increases in staffing levels and teacher pay. However, MABE opposes any recommendation to reduce or eliminate the governance and decision-making authority of local boards as a condition for receiving increased state funding. Local boards are committed to investing meaningful increases in state and local funding in accordance with new, more rigorous master plans, and to closing achievement and opportunity gaps to the maximum extent within our control.

MABE also highlighted the issue of school safety, and that for each local board, safety and security in public schools is extremely important for the protection of students and staff, as well as necessary to providing environments conducive to teaching and learning. Last year's tragic school shootings in Maryland, Texas, and Florida led to broad bipartisan support for the Safe to Learn Act of 2018. MABE believes this Act provides a strong framework for ensuring high quality school safety programs, behavioral health coordination, school resource officer training, and facility evaluations and improvements to make all schools safer for all students.

MABE's [2019 Legislative Positions](#) and [Briefing Presentation to the House Ways and Means Committee](#) are available on MABE's website.

## School to Prison Pipeline and Restorative Practices Report

On January 17, the House Ways and Means Education Subcommittee received a briefing on the [final report](#) of the Maryland Commission on the School-to-Prison Pipeline and Restorative Practices. The briefing was presented by Barbara Sugarman Grochal, Maryland Carey School of Law.

Pursuant to House Bill 1287 (2017), the Maryland General Assembly established the Maryland Commission on the School-to-Prison Pipeline and Restorative Practices to study current disciplinary practices in Maryland public schools and recommend best practices with respect to restorative approaches that foster positive school climates and disciplinary practices most conducive to learning. The Commission spent eighteen months studying disciplinary policies and practices in Maryland, reviewing empirical literature, and gathering testimony and information from experts, educators, students, and other stakeholders across the State. MABE thanks Michael Bunitsky, member of the Frederick County Board of Education, for representing MABE on the Commission.

The Commission's recommendations focus on five areas: 1) the development of restorative schools; 2) teacher education; 3) discipline data transparency; 4) state support and evaluation; and 5) leveraging of resources. Professor Grochal highlighted the alignment between the work of this Commission and the Kirwan Commission. She called on legislators to initiate a new mandate for pre-service training, stating that all new teachers need pre-service training focused on the methodology of disciplining students through restorative approaches and practices, and cultural competency training that is relevant to their pedagogy. She described the idea behind a restorative approach and practice is that relationships are central to learning, growth and a healthy school climate and culture for students and adults; and that this ideology is a shift away from the traditional, punitive disciplinary practices and exclusionary policies many of our schools are still practicing.

MABE anticipates multiple bills relating to student discipline, restorative practices, and juvenile services during the 2019 session.

### Resources

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">MABE's Annapolis Advocacy Center</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">General Assembly</a></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">MABE's State Board Advocacy Center</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">State Board of Education/MSDE</a></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">MABE's Federal Advocacy Center</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">NSBA Advocacy</a></li></ul>

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