

TAKE ACTION NOW!

March 19, 2019

Contact Your Legislators Today to Fully Fund Kirwan!

The Maryland General Assembly has a once in a generation opportunity to build a world-class education system for every student in our State. But there is a stark difference between the House and Senate approaches to launching Kirwan and funding schools this year and next year.

At this time, only the House version would fully fund the Kirwan bill. The Senate version of the budget cuts Kirwan funding by a third in the first year – and in half in the second year! The House version is far better for public schools in both years. So the choice is simple.

[Contact your legislators now to support the House version of Kirwan!](#)

Comparison of House v. Senate Versions

Kirwan Programs	House		Senate	
	FY2020	FY2021	FY2020	FY2021
Prekindergarten	29M	55M	33M	55M
Teacher Salary Grant	75M	75M	75M	75M
Poverty Concentration	55M	55M	55M	55M
Struggling Learners	23M	23M	23M	23M
Special Education	137.5M	137.5M	33M	33M
Mental Health Staff	2M	2M	2M	2M
Teacher Collaboratives	2.5M	2.5M	2.5M	2.5M
Declining Enrollment		16.5M		16.5M
Other Items*				
Totals*	\$324M	\$750M	\$225M (\$100M less than House)	\$345M (\$415M less than House)

*Totals include smaller items not shown.

Why It's So Important to Act Now

The State Budget bill this year is [House Bill 100](#), and it has passed the House and Senate in very different versions. Over the next several days the General Assembly will be meeting to make final decisions about how much to invest in the Kirwan legislation in the next 2 school years. Again, the Senate's proposed investment in the 2019-2020 school year is \$100 million less than the House's version, and the 2020-2021 school year total amounts are even farther apart with the House providing \$750 million v. the Senate providing \$345 million.

[Tell your legislators today to fully fund Kirwan!](#)

Talking Points

- I urge your support for the House version of Kirwan funding in the State Budget bill, because our children deserve a world-class education.
- The House is providing 100 million dollars more for Kirwan programs this year, and over 400 million dollars more next year than the Senate version of the Budget bill.
- Please support the House version to guarantee a strong and lasting launch to the Kirwan Commission's ten-year plan to fully fund Maryland's public schools.
- From 2009 to 2013, Education Week magazine named Maryland as the No. 1 school system in the nation. Today, Maryland has fallen to No. 6.
- Fully funding Kirwan is needed to reclaim MD's ranking as the best public school system in the nation and to make our schools the best in the world!

MABE urges a strong and lasting launch to the Kirwan Commission's funding and policy recommendations, entitled "The Blueprint for Maryland's Future" ([Senate Bill 1030/House Bill 1413](#)), which is much better represented by the House approach. To do otherwise sets up this new innovative system for failure and the vision set forth by the Commission's blueprint for the future will not be realized.

For more on what's in the Kirwan bill and why MABE strongly supports it, read [MABE's Testimony](#), [MABE's Education Advocate \(March 15\)](#), and the bill's [Fiscal and Policy Note](#). Also, MABE encourages everyone to read the [Kirwan Commission's Report \(Jan. 2019\)](#).

For more information, contact John R. Woolums, Esq., MABE's Director of Governmental Relations, at jwoolums@mabe.org or 410-841-5414.

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