

STATE EDUCATION FUNDING

MABE POSITIONS

The Maryland Association of Boards of Education, representing all local boards of education in Maryland:

- ✓ **Supports** the policy and funding recommendations of the Kirwan Commission to update and enhance Maryland's nationally recognized standards-based school finance system, consistent with preserving local board governance.
- ✓ **Supports** increased funding for all students and targeted increases for prekindergarten, English learners, economically disadvantaged students, community schools, and students receiving special education services.
- ✓ **Supports** increased funding for public education in the FY 2021 State Budget, including the continued phase-in of dedicated gaming revenue in the Education Trust Fund.
- ✗ **Opposes** efforts to reduce state funding or shift funding responsibilities from the state to county governments.

BACKGROUND

MABE is fully engaged in supporting the education funding and policy reforms developed by the Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. The Commission is proposing a 10-year phase in of a \$2.7 billion increase in State funding and \$1.2 billion increase in local funding for public education. These increases represent the commitment Maryland must make to fully and equitably fund a world class public education for all of Maryland's more than 890,000 students. The Commission's recommendations include:

- Ensuring high-quality early childhood education and care, including expanded full-day prekindergarten for low-income three and four year-olds;
- Elevating teachers and leaders through increased salaries and numbers of teachers, counselors and other staff, including a more diverse workforce;
- Creating a world-class instructional system of college and career readiness pathways, including career and technical education (CTE);
- Increasing per pupil funding for all students and targeting additional funding for students who need it most, including economically disadvantaged students, students receiving special education services, and English language learners;
- Providing comprehensive supports by targeting funding to schools serving high concentrations of students living in poverty to provide community schools which feature before-and after-school, summer academic programs, and student access to needed health and social services; and
- Ensuring excellence for all through enhanced oversight and accountability to ensure that the Commission's recommendations are successfully implemented and produce the desired results.

Marylanders overwhelmingly passed Question 1 in 2018 to amend the State constitution to convert the entire Education Trust Fund (ETF) to new source of guaranteed increased funding to support Kirwan Commission initiatives. \$125 million in casino revenues became available for FY 2020, and grow to \$250 million in FY 2021, \$375 million in FY 2022, and over \$500 million in FY 2023. In 2019 the Kirwan Commission's recommended legislation passed to launch a three-year \$1.1 billion increase in mandated funding.

Maryland's Constitution places the highest priority on public education by requiring the General Assembly to "establish a thorough and efficient system of free public schools" and to "provide by taxation or otherwise for their maintenance." Courts have interpreted this to mean funding must be sufficient to provide all students with "an adequate education measured by contemporary educational standards"; and if sufficient funding is not provided, the State is failing to meet its constitutional duty. MABE is confident that Maryland can fulfill its constitutional mandate to fully fund and support an adequate, equitable, and excellent education for all students if the recommendations developed by the Kirwan Commission are fully funded.

For additional information, see [MABE's Resolution on Adequate and Equitable Education Funding](#).