

**TAKE
10
MINUTES**

STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND



December
2020

✓ Goal: Override the Veto of the Blueprint

The **Blueprint for Maryland's Future** is a result of 3+ years of experts creating a plan that will make Maryland schools world-class. Last session, the Blueprint passed the General Assembly but was vetoed by Governor Hogan. Now, we are in the final phase of *this* fight for our public schools! We **must** override the veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future during the 2021 session. It will take everyone contacting their lawmakers and activating their networks to get this win, but victory is within our sights. Use this Take 10 to learn more about where things stand and actions you should take to help override the veto of the Blueprint.

**2020
VICTORIES**



BLUEPRINT 2020 VOTE
Senate Vote: 37-9
House Vote: 96-38



34,548 emails to lawmakers



5,745 calls to lawmakers



500+ people attending a rally in support of the Blueprint

2021 SESSION GOALS

This legislative session, we will have three clear goals in this order:

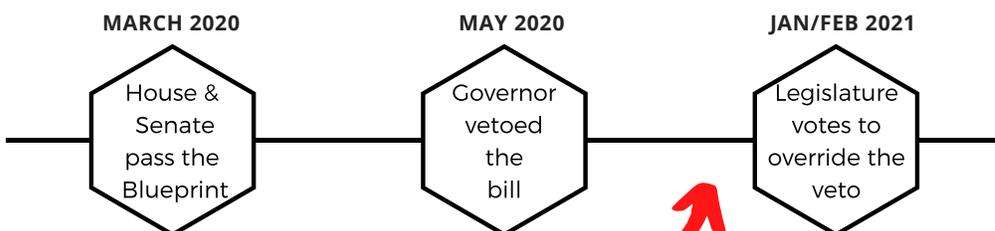
1. **Override the veto** of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.
2. Maintain the **integrity** of the Blueprint in any companion legislation that will be put forward .
3. Support efforts to **address the impacts of COVID 19** on our public schools.

The Blueprint will likely be taken no later than mid Feb. and be among the first floor actions of the session. We need to earn **29 votes in the Senate and 85 votes in the House** to override the veto.

KEY AREAS OF THE BLUEPRINT

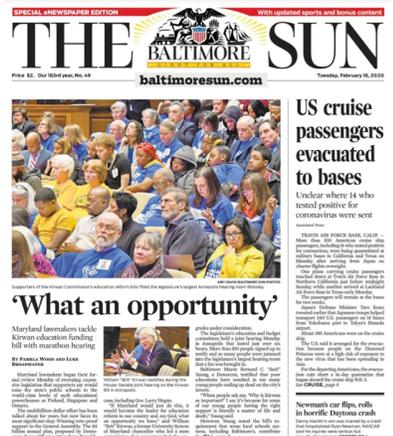
- Expansion & development of **Early Childhood Education** programs to support birth to 5 development
- **College and Career Readiness Pathways**, including substantial growth in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and dual enrollment opportunities
- Recruiting and retaining **High Quality and Diverse Educators** to enter and stay in Maryland classrooms
- Additional resources for **At-Risk Populations**, including Special Education students, English Language Learners, and students experiencing poverty.
- Checks and balances through **Accountability Structures** to ensure that the formula is working as intended

[Click here for more information!](#)



This is where you flex your power!

Front page news!



WHAT WILL SESSION LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR?

This year's Legislative Session will be unlike any before. Legislators will be socially distanced with plexiglass dividers in multiple rooms to allow for in person voting and debate. The entirety of session will be **live streamed**. While we may not be present in person, we can watch our democracy in action in real time.

For the most part, outside visitors will not be permitted into the House and Senate in Annapolis. This means that **we should plan for a fully virtual legislator engagement plan**. That means that we will be holding meetings with our lawmakers in a virtually as well as engaging in many digital actions to add our collective voice to the override push.

In the Team Leader folder for this month, check out the **Virtual Meetings with Lawmakers Toolkit** for guidance on how to set up and run successful virtual meetings. Reach out to Allie if your team would like to schedule a practice run!

CAN WE REALLY DO THIS IN THIS ECONOMY?

Yes! Legislators predicted potential economic slowdowns due to the pandemic and inserted an amendment right before passage. The King Amendment, introduced by Senator Nancy King, ensures that the state's ability to fund the Blueprint is taken into account as the law is implemented.

The King Amendment states that, in the event that the Board of Revenue Estimates December state revenue projections are at at least **7.5% lower** than they were the preceding March, all existing Blueprint program funding would be temporarily paused until the economy recovers and any funding increases would be limited to inflation. The intent of the King Amendment is to prevent the state from abandoning implementation of the Blueprint altogether in the event of an economic downturn, while ensuring the state does not make fiscal promises it cannot keep.

WHAT IS COMPANION LEGISLATION?

Due to the veto, at a minimum the timelines for implementation will need to be adjusted since elements of the Blueprint we supposed to take effect July 1, 2020. In a story written in the Associated Press, **Speaker Jones** was quoted as saying, "The basic premise, the whole purpose of Kirwan, I think will be intact, but just maybe some modifications based on how we look budget-wise." Strong Schools Maryland will engage in any discussions about legislative **adjustments** to the Blueprint.

Finally, **COVID 19** has altered the education landscape in every county. There will likely be intense discussions, led by many of our allies, surrounding any immediate relief schools and districts may need. Issues like declining enrollment, the digital divide, and remote learning will garner interest and will lend our voice and support where it fits best.

THIS MONTH'S ACTIONS

- [Record](#) a **30-60 second testimonial** explaining why the Blueprint is important to you.
- [Click to email your lawmakers](#) about a topic addressed by the Blueprint that you feel should be a priority.
- **Share on social media** to engage your personal network in video testimony and emails to lawmakers.

- Do you want to meet with your lawmakers to show your support for the Blueprint and the related legislation? Use this [toolkit](#) or reach out to Allie for support!

[Click here to take the actions!](#)



Questions or ideas?

Contact Allie at allie@strongschoolsmaryland.org