



# Maryland Education Coalition



INSPIRES ACTION & POSITIVE CHANGE SO MARYLAND'S STUDENTS SUCCEED

Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair

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Date: February 12, 2021

BILL: [HB0764](#)

POSITION: STRONGLY OPPOSE

TITLE: Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today

Program - Established and Mandated Funding

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) strongly opposes HB 764-BOOST-Established and Mandated Funding, which could provide \$15 million in mandated funding for scholarships (vouchers) for some students attending nonpublic schools. The state does not even mandate, adequately or equitably fund many public education programs and services for lower income students, students with disabilities, limited English, or Pre-K, especially in low wealth school districts with high numbers of students of color. (see attached)

MEC believes that the \$15 million proposed in this bill and other additional funding found by the state should be dedicated to increase funding or grants for school communities with high concentrations of poverty\*\*, community schools, community services or early childhood education. These funding resources could also be used to rapidly increase the formula funding for lower income, special needs or Limited English students as defined in the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future legislation (Kirwan).

MEC supports adequate, equitable investment of public money for public and approved nonpublic special needs schools only - essential for teaching the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for our children to be contributing members in our communities, without discrimination. MEC does not oppose nonpublic schools, but we do oppose the use of any public operating or capital funds for vouchers, tax credits, or tax subsidies for all other non-public, private, parochial, or home schools.

**MEC also believes a public education is a constitutional right based on [Article VIII of the Maryland Constitution](#) that requires all public school students equitable access to a quality education so each may graduate college or career-ready. We also believe it is a **civil right** based on several federal and state laws or regulations. These same policies and rights do not apply to many nonpublic schools.**

State funds provided to nonpublic schools historically do not require detailed data on how public funding is used nor any comparable assessments on how nonpublic students or schools perform academically compared to similar public schools. Public schools are required to accept and serve all students regardless of who they are, where they live or family income, etc. Public schools are also required to collect and report a wide range of academic and school operation data to the state and federal government that is not required to be provided by most nonpublic schools.

For these and other reasons, we oppose HB0764 and urge an unfavorable report.

Respectfully yours,  
Rick Tyler, Jr. Chair

*See attached for some highlights related to the public education budget.*

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Advocates for Children and Youth, American Civil Liberties Union of MD, Arts Education in Maryland Schools, Arts Every Day, Attendance Works, CASA, Decoding Dyslexia of MD, Disability Rights Maryland, League of Women Voters of MD, Let Them See Clearly, Right to Read Maryland, Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, Maryland Coalition for Gifted & Talented Ed, Maryland Out of School Time Network, Maryland PTA, MSC-NAACP, Maryland School Psychologists’ Association, Parent Advocacy Consortium, Public Justice Center, School Social Workers of MD, Barbara Dezmon, Kalam Hettleman, David Hornbeck, Rick Tyler, Jr., Shamoyia Gardiner, Sharon Rubinstein

# Governor's FY22 (SY21-22) Education Budget

## State Education Funding Formula

\$5.7 Billion for MD Schools for FY22

### Statewide enrollment loss of 26,900 students

- Governor's budget does not calculate funding based on a "Hold Harmless" enrollment loss
- Triggers significant loss in education funding
- Not at TRUE "Hold Harmless" - grant applied AFTER lower enrollment calculated

## "Small" Blueprint Changes

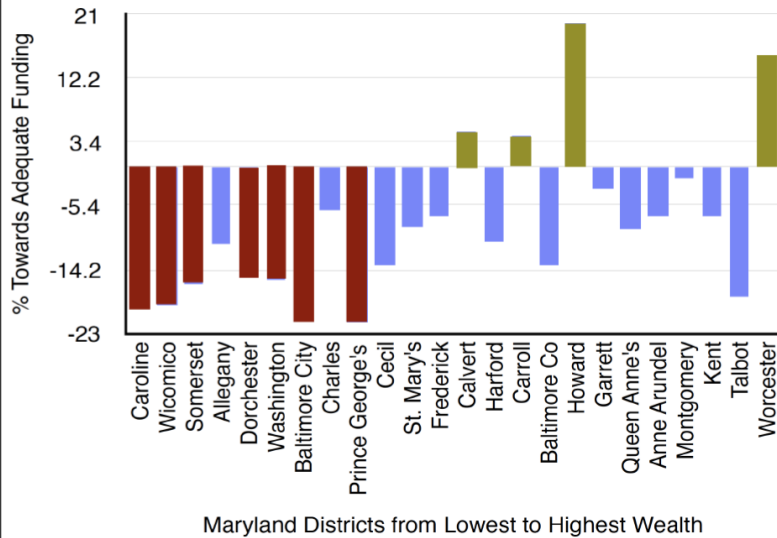
\$752 Million for MD Schools for FY22.

\* Shows major Blueprint programs and "Hold Harmless". Smaller categories not shown.

### Blueprint Program

Blueprint Program	FY21	FY22
Concentration of Poverty	\$65.2 m	\$71.9 m
Teacher Salary	\$75.0 m	\$75.0 m
Supplemental/Tutoring	\$23.0 m	\$174.6 m
Special Education	\$65.5 m	\$65.5 m
PreKindergarten Suppl	\$64.0 m	\$53.7 m
PreK Expansion	\$26.6 m	\$26.6 m
Early Education	\$45.6 m	\$54.7 m
Hold Harmless	\$0 m	\$213.0 m

## Low-Wealth Districts Are More Underfunded Than Wealthy Districts



- Shows FY17 funding towards Thornton "Adequacy" targets (analysis by state DLS)
- Chart shows comparisons, **NOT** current "Adequacy" targets
- -\$342 million for Baltimore City Schools
- -\$503 million for Prince George's County Schools
- -\$17 million for Caroline County Schools
- ~\$3,100 - \$4,400 Per Pupil for most underfunded districts

\***CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, ARTICLE VIII, EDUCATION. SECTION 1.** The General Assembly, at its First Session after the adoption of this Constitution, shall by Law establish throughout the State a thorough and efficient System of **Free Public Schools**; and shall provide by taxation, or otherwise, for their maintenance.