



*Maryland Education Coalition and Maryland PTA Presents:*

## What's at Stake: A Briefing on Maryland Public Education Funding

**Thursday, October 5, 2017**  
Prince George's County Educators Association  
8008 Marlboro Pike  
Forestville, MD 20747

**6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**[Register Now! Click Here to RSVP!](#)**

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, or "Kirwan" Commission, is tasked with recommending improvements to the state funding formula utilizing recommendations from consultants. ACLU is working with Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) & the Baltimore Education Coalition (BEC) to ensure the Commission hears from citizens across the state.

MEC (including member group ACLU-MD) and the Maryland PTA will be hosting a briefing on the state of Maryland education funding. ACLU's Bebe Verdery and Kim Humphrey will be presenting on funding adequacy and will be joined by special guest, Dr. Alvin Thornton. Join Us!

### Kirwan Commission: Upcoming Public Hearings

Show Your Care - Show Up!

- **Thursday, Oct 12, 2017, 5:00pm-8:30pm** at Baltimore Polytechnic High School (1400 W Cold Spring Ln, Baltimore, MD 21209)
- **Wednesday, Oct 25, 2017, 6:30pm-8:30pm** at Largo High School (505 Largo Rd, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774)

The Kirwan Commission has held hearings on the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland. Two more hearings are scheduled in Baltimore City and Prince George's County. Join the ACLU and friends at these hearings to make your voice heard and show your support for passage of an improved formula! To testify before the commission (Baltimore hearing likely full), call 410.946.5510 or 301.970.5510 or email [PreK12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:PreK12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us). You must sign up by noon on the day of the hearing.

For additional information, contact the ACLU of Maryland, Education Reform Project at [education@aclu-md.org](mailto:education@aclu-md.org).

# What Are We Pushing For In A New State Education Funding Formula?

The ACLU of Maryland's 1994 lawsuit, *Bradford vs. Maryland State Board of Education*, sought to ensure adequate and equitable funding for the most disadvantaged students in Maryland. The lawsuit helped to move Maryland's legislature to adopt the state's current education funding law in 2002. Many aspects of the state's education funding system are strong. However, many Maryland districts are falling short of "adequate" funding (to the tune of \$1.6 billion) after the legislature cut education funding during the recent recession. The Kirwan Commission is tasked with providing recommendations to the legislature on how the funding formula should be changed.

Here are the ACLU's main priorities for a new formula, from the understandably sublime to the ridiculously arcane:

- **Sufficient funding for every child.** Increase the per pupil base amount and additional "weights" for low-income, special education, English Language Learners, and pre-k.
- **Equity-based local wealth calculations.** Each county/Baltimore City should pay what they can afford according to income and property wealth, and the state should make up the difference. Zip code shouldn't determine education quality.
- **Funding for full day pre-k for low-income 3- and 4-year olds.**
- **Increased funding for schools with concentrated poverty.** Additional staffing, programs, and resources to address needs of schools with high levels of students in poverty.
- **Afterschool & summer school.** Ensure that there is sufficient funding for out of school time learning in art, music, sports, theater, STEM, etc.
- **Community Schools.** Provide a coordinator to support students with wrap-around services like healthcare and mental health.
- **Funding for old school buildings.** Adequate operating budget funding for school systems with higher maintenance costs due to aging and deficient building systems, and to account for school system capital debt service so that it no longer reduces funding for the classroom.
- **Accurate measure for poverty.** Use direct certification of family income (with a 1.6 multiplier) to calculate additional funding for students in poverty.
- **Remove wealth gains from tax-increment financing.** School funding should not be reduced for local governments' use of tax-increment financing.
- **Reject "Comparable Wage Index" (CWI) as the adjustment for geographic variation in costs.** CWI does not include all the factors that drive what impacts teacher choices and educational costs; CWI would reduce equity.
- **Expand the Guaranteed Tax Base program.** Increase funding for low-wealth jurisdictions with high tax effort.

American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland | Education Reform Project

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