

EDUCATION ADVOCATE

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KIRWAN...ARE WE THERE YET?

Greetings!

Where are we in the process of updating Maryland's education funding formula so that it is equitable and provides an excellent education to *all* students? We're not there yet, but getting close.

The Commission on Innovation and Excellence (Kirwan Commission) has been on the way to updating the formula since 2014. This summer marks the fifth year of the process.

Last legislative session, Maryland legislators passed the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*, a jumpstart bill to fund key recommendations from the Kirwan Commission.

Still, the actual discussion on how to fully fund all of the programs across Maryland is just underway via the Funding Formula Workgroup (Workgroup).

The Workgroup has roughly two and a half months to figure out the funding plan that will change the future of Maryland students for decades to come. Note that revamping Maryland's very complex formula is a huge task for the members who are new to the Kirwan process (only four of the fourteen are also Kirwan Commissioners).

The Workgroup's current target date for preliminary decisions is September 5, with the aim to release a final version by September 26. With such a whirlwind process, we are in for quite the ride.

Read our new blog for 5 key points to keep in mind as we head into critical *Funding Formula Workgroup* decision-making meetings:

1. The Heart of the Matter: Equity
2. The Richest Counties Are Still Getting the Most State Aid
3. The Great Debate: How to Measure Local Wealth
4. Pay Attention to the Formula "Fixers"
5. "I Do." Marrying the Formula & Kirwan's Policy Recommendations

[Dig into the five points here.](#)

There's a narrow window for decisions on both the formula and the overall recommendations. We are eagerly awaiting the outcomes of the next series of meetings, one of which will include the **first public comment opportunity related to the formula on September 19th**. We are also looking forward to a schedule for the full convening of the Kirwan Commission.

Stay tuned for those announcements of next steps and how best to engage your elected leaders to ensure full funding of services and programs so that every student in Maryland gets a world-class educational experience.

Making real changes to Maryland’s education system to increase equity is not simply a “nice thing to do,” justice requires it – and full, targeted funding to student needs is required too.

Thanks for staying in the fight,



Kimberly Humphrey, Esq.
Public Policy Counsel

The 2020 General Assembly, a critical legislative session for fighting for equitable education policies for Maryland, is right around the corner. And we need everyone in the fight!

To maximize our collective strength, we are moving our education updates to our main ACLU of Maryland e-list. Sign up to make sure you don’t miss updates.

YES, KEEP ME IN THE LOOP!



American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland

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