



# Education Advocate

March 2015

## Governor's Education Cuts Rejected by House

Most Funding Restored to Maryland School Districts; City Schools' Loss Reversed

Actions taken on Friday by the House Appropriations Committee would reverse nearly all of the Governor's proposed cuts to K-12 education. The committee shifted hundreds of millions of dollars in the budget in order to restore cuts in education, health care, and state worker pay.

### For all Maryland school districts, the House Appropriations Committee:

- Restored \$65 m. for the Inflation Factor
- Found \$68 m. in cuts so that the Governor could fully fund the GCEI\*
- Removed the 1% cap on the education formula's inflation factor for future years
- Retained the one-year freeze of NTI\*\* funding, a formula reduction of \$12 m. statewide

Though the committee "fenced off" funding for the GCEI, the Governor must agree to release those funds; [it is not an automatic restoration of the cut](#) --- **SEE ACTION ALERT BELOW!**

### For Baltimore City Schools, which faces a \$35.5 m. cut, the committee's action will mean:

- \$10 m. restored for the Inflation Factor
- \$11.5 m. to allow the Governor to fully fund the GCEI
- An offset of the \$13.7 m. loss from the wealth shift in the formula by alleviating City Schools of its initial \$20 m. installment for the 21st Century Building Program



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tomorrow!**

**Wednesday, 3/18,  
after the 10:00 am  
Legislative Session  
begins.**

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Should the Governor agree with the committee's actions, the House budget would erase City Schools' \$35.5 m. cut and allow for a small gain in funding (about \$6 m.) above the current year's funding level. This is accomplished by not requiring City Schools to pay \$20 m. into the 21st Century Building Program for one year only. It was determined that the full funding from the state, city, and school system was not required in FY16 for bond payments. [Read the Baltimore Sun's Sunday article, "House panel finds money for education, state employee pay raise."](#)

**TAKE ACTION: Demand Full House Approve Committee's Actions, Senate Maintain House Actions, and Governor Hogan Fund GCEI**

"It ain't over 'til it's over", said Yogi Berra. The full House must vote to affirm the committee's action AND the Senate will make its own changes to the budget. Don't stop now!

**TAKE ACTION**

1. [Call Governor Hogan at \(410\) 974-3901](#) and ask him to support the House's education budget and release funds for the GCEI.
2. [Call Senate Budget Chairman Kasemeyer at 410-841-3690](#) and ask that the Senate Budget Committee to support the House's decision to restore K-12 education funding.
3. [Call Senate President Mike Miller at 410-841-3700](#) and ask that the Senate Budget committee support the House's decision to restore K-12 education funding.

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*\* **Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI).** GCEI funding provides additional funding to counties where the cost of education is higher. Currently, 12 counties and the city qualify for GCEI funding but the amount that each county receives is determined by an index that values each district's cost of education.*

*\*\* **Net Taxable Income (NTI) Grants.** NTI, which measures the wealth of a district based on personal income, is an important factor in calculating per pupil funding for each district. In 2013, NTI was changed to account for taxpayers who tend to file later in the year, which causes certain counties to lose funding while others gain. Starting in FY2014, NTI Grants have been provided to counties that lose funding based on the NTI change - phased in over 5 years.*

**American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland  
Education Reform Project**

Bebe Verdery, Director

Frank Patinella, Education Advocate  
Kimberly Humphrey, Legislative/Education Advocate  
Gary Therkildsen, Education Advocate  
Rachel Duden, Education Intern

410.889.8555 | [education@aclu-md.org](mailto:education@aclu-md.org) | [www.aclu-md.org](http://www.aclu-md.org)

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ACLU-MD Education Reform Project | 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350 | Baltimore | MD | 21217