

\$300+ Million Surplus Projected

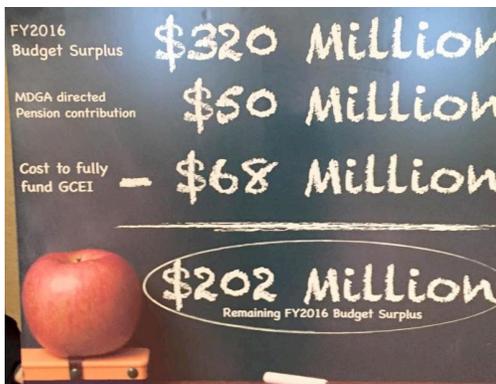
Governor continues to refuse release of \$68 million in education funds

With [news coming from budget estimators](#) that the state will see a \$320 million budget surplus when the current fiscal year ends next June, Maryland General Assembly leaders gathered Monday to call on Gov. Hogan to use some of the extra money to fully fund education.

In January, the governor proposed cutting nearly \$150 million from the education budget, much of it coming from zeroing out an inflation adjustment and halving the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI). When lawmakers departed Annapolis at the close of the legislative session in April, they had restored the inflation factor and allocated enough funding to erase the governor's cuts to GCEI.



Photo credit: The Baltimore Sun



The ACLU of Maryland, along with the Maryland and Baltimore Education Coalitions and other education advocates from around the state, [continued to advocate even after the legislative session](#) for the governor to follow through with the legislature's budget changes.

But Gov. Hogan later refused to release the GCEI funding and claimed he would use the set-aside funds to further shore up the state's pension system. That move [turned out to be impermissible](#), however, and the \$68 million in GCEI funding is currently sitting idle in the state's treasury.

News of the higher-than-expected surplus - more than 10 times the amount of money budget estimators expected the state to see - prompted legislative leaders to point out that Gov. Hogan has no more excuses to continue refusing the release of the critical GCEI funding. Even if the governor directed \$50 million of the surplus into the pension system AND released the GCEI funding, the state would still have over a \$200 million surplus available.

Loss of GCEI, which helps jurisdictions where it costs more money to educate children, was hardest felt in Baltimore City. Fully, \$12 million of City Schools' current loss of \$23 million in state funding this fiscal year [can be attributed to GCEI](#). Without restoration of these funds, layoffs and programming cuts are almost guaranteed to continue.

Candidates Sought for Baltimore City School Board

[Click here to view recruitment notice](#)

The Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE) recruits and reviews applications for candidates to serve on the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners. The City board is responsible for raising the level of academic achievement of city students and improving the management and administration of the school system.

The position requires that candidates be residents of Baltimore City and at least 18 years of age. State law requires that candidates possess one or more of the following qualifications:

- A high level of knowledge and expertise in administration of a large business, nonprofit, or governmental entity
- A high level of knowledge and expertise about education
- A child enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools as of the date of the appointment
- Knowledge or experience in the education of children with disabilities.

After MSBE identifies qualified candidates, board members are selected jointly by the mayor of Baltimore City and the governor.

Deadline: [Submit application to MSBE](#) by 5pm on December 3, 2015



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