



# Education Reform Project

## Legislative Session Update

February 16, 2016

It has been a busy couple weeks in Annapolis and here in Baltimore! Below are some of the highlights of the ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project's work over that time.

**Be sure to follow us on FB & Twitter for updates!**

### BEC Legislative Preview Turns 'Em Out



BALTIMORE EDUCATION COALITION

The Baltimore Education Coalition (BEC) held its annual Legislative Preview Tuesday, February 2nd. Over 300 people turned out to hear how they could help fight the **\$25 M. loss** in state education funding to City Schools in Governor Hogan's proposed budget. Click [here](#) to read BEC's goals in Annapolis this year, and [here](#) to see the PowerPoint ACLU presented at the event.

### ACLU-MD Testifies in Support of TIF Remedy Bill



Del. Maggie McIntosh has introduced a bill ([HB285](#)) this session to help correct an imbalance in the State's education funding formula and its calculation of a jurisdiction's wealth in connection with the use of **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)** vehicles. Click [here](#) to read the written testimony the ACLU of Maryland submitted in support of the bill during its hearing this week in the House.

### ACLU Opposes School Construction Carve-Out



Legislators from several counties submitted a bill ([SB271](#)) to double the amount of capital funding - \$20 M. to \$40 M. - set aside for school districts that are experiencing significant enrollment growth and/or have a large number of relocatable classrooms. Though attempting to alleviate a pressing concern in some districts, this bill places a greater emphasis on high enrollment and overcrowding to the detriment of other critical school construction needs around the state.

Click [here](#) to read the ACLU's testimony submitted against this bill.

### Community Schools Legislation Press Conference



The ACLU of Maryland has been working with **Community School** advocates for some time to get legislation introduced in Annapolis supporting this [key education reform](#). Del. Mary Washington strongly supports the work, and last week the ACLU and other advocates gathered to support her Community Schools bill ([HB1139](#)). Click [here](#) to see local news coverage of the event.

### ACLU of MD on WEAA



Senior Education Reform Advocate Frank Patinella joined the Marc Steiner Show last Tuesday morning on behalf of the Baltimore Education Coalition to discuss education issues in Baltimore. State funding, school construction, and transparency were the hot topics of the day. Click [here](#) to listen to the full conversation. Bebe

Verdery also joined Sean Yoes on WEAA's First Edition, discussing City Schools' enrollment controversy and state funding loss. Click [here](#) to listen.

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