



Education Reform Project

Legislative Session Update

March 14, 2016

We scored a big win in Annapolis last week, while laying the groundwork for more wins in the future! See below for highlights of the ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project's work over the last two weeks.

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

Governor Issues Supplemental Budget with \$12.7 M. for City Schools



Gov. Larry Hogan [released a supplemental budget](#) last Thursday that included \$12.7 M. for City Schools, adding Baltimore to the list of counties with declining enrollment that would get aid. The ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project, with the Baltimore Education Coalition, had been calling for the funding since January. The Governor's provision anticipates the Baltimore City government putting up a nearly equal amount of funding, about \$10 M., which would almost close the \$25 M. funding gap that City Schools faces this year in loss of State aid.

Baltimore Education Coalition Action Night Held in Annapolis



More than 300 Baltimore Education Coalition supporters came to Annapolis this past Wednesday, getting updates from legislators, hearing from students, parents, and teachers about why we're fighting, and gaining insight on our next steps. Attendees heard about the fight to restore Baltimore City schools' loss of \$25 M. in state aid, efforts to fund full-day Pre-K, the drive to fund community schools, and strategies on defending the city's fair share of state school construction dollars. The room erupted in cheers when Del. Maggie McIntosh, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, [informed the crowd](#) that Gov. Hogan would be submitting a supplemental budget with \$12.7 M. in additional state aid for City Schools!

ACLU Advocates Funding for Community Schools



The ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project testified in support of Del. Mary Washington's community schools bill (HB1139) last week. The bill would provide a stable source of funding to pay for community school coordinators and after-school programs at schools across the state that have high levels of poverty. This is a key strategy of the ACLU's and other education advocates who see full, wraparound services as an effective way to address the neighborhood and school impacts of concentrated poverty. Click [here](#) to read the testimony.

Coalition for Public Schools Urges Lawmakers to Kill Private/Religious School Funding



The ACLU of Maryland recently joined with numerous education advocacy groups from around the state to send a [letter](#) to legislators in Annapolis urging them to reject any attempt to create tax credits to fund private and religious schools this year. The tax credits would divert public funds that could otherwise be used to support needs in public schools. From the ACLU's perspective, one of the biggest issues is that none of the bills prevent these schools from discriminating in admission on the basis of gender-identity, ethnicity, language or disability or prevent discrimination in employment on the basis of religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity, which public schools are prohibited from doing.

Click [here](#) to contact your legislators in Annapolis and tell them to reject these tax credits!

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