



Education Reform Project

Legislative Session Update

March 25, 2016

With just three weeks left before the end to the legislative session in Annapolis, state delegates and senators are making critical decisions about pending legislation. See below for highlights of the ACLU of Maryland's Education Reform Project's work over the last two weeks and learn the status of some of our priorities this session.

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

Budget Nears Completion; Additional \$ for Baltimore Schools Included



Despite differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget, we know the \$12.7 M. for Baltimore City Schools that Gov. Hogan included in his [third supplemental budget](#) will be included in the final version. So too will language requiring the City of Baltimore to provide an additional \$10 M. to City Schools over last year's appropriation (click [here](#) to see the latest version of that language).

Thanks to the hard work of the Baltimore Education Coalition and members of the City delegation, the \$22.7 M. in total additional aid nearly erases the \$25.3 M. loss in State education aid for City Schools in the governor's original budget proposal for FY 2017.

Bill to Create Education Funding Adequacy Commission Nears Passage



Both the House and Senate passed versions of a bill ([HB999/SB905](#)) creating a commission to examine [recommendations currently under development](#) by MSDE consultants reviewing the adequacy of the State's education funding formula. The commission will begin its work later this year and issue a final report at the end of 2017. Ideally, their work would be turned into legislation for the 2018 legislative session. The ACLU of Maryland will be working to ensure the commission

increases the adequacy and equity of the State education funding formula, addresses concentrated poverty, examines full day prekindergarten, and ensures funding for community schools.

Support Full Day, Public Pre-K; Email Legislators Now!



The ACLU of Maryland recently sent an important [Action Alert](#), asking supporters to contact their state legislators and ask them to support funding for full day, quality, public prekindergarten. A bill to do just that is currently before the legislature in Annapolis this year, and the ACLU is pushing hard for its passage. Even if we do not win this year, however, we are making important inroads for when this issue is addressed during the State education funding adequacy commission's work. But it is not too late! If you have not already done so, [please contact your legislators today!](#)

Soon-to-Be-Created Restorative Justice Task Force Something to Celebrate



The Maryland General Assembly looks poised to pass legislation ([HB1466](#)) creating a task force to study how public schools in Maryland might implement restorative justice practices. The ACLU of Maryland has long been in support of restorative justice practices in lieu of harsh detention and suspension schemes,

which unfairly impact children of color. The ACLU also looks forward to being a member of the task force and helping to push the state toward better school discipline policies.

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