



Education Advocate

Doomsday Budget Averted! State Legislature Restores Education Funding

With a final vote in the General Assembly today, a budget package has passed which restores the \$128 m. in education cuts that had been a part of the "doomsday" budget passed in the regular legislative session. The budget package includes full funding of the Thornton education formula, including a 1% inflation increase, a primary goal for the ACLU and our coalition partners. School budgets will now remain intact, restoring \$22 m. to Baltimore City, \$5 m. to Baltimore County, \$33 m. to Montgomery, and \$38 m. to Prince George's. [See full chart at this link.](#) During the Special Session, ACLU testified before the budget committees about the importance of restoring the \$128 m. in Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) funding.

The budget package includes a shift of teacher pension costs to local school systems over 4 years, but school funding should remain stable, given the new provisions in the Maintenance of Effort law. A small income tax increase to higher earners also passed as a part of the budget package, which will restore funding for community colleges, health programs, and other human services.

Thanks to all the parents, school staff, students, and community advocates who worked hard during the two legislative sessions. Your calls, emails, and rallies produced funding that our schools need!

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