

JOIN US on February 27th! Baltimore School Communities Advocate for Solutions in Annapolis!

We worked hard with the Baltimore Education Coalition (BEC) last year to #FixTheGap, which is preventing what would have been an \$18 million funding loss to Baltimore City Public Schools for the upcoming school year. Other districts benefited as well. This year, BEC is working on a new campaign to secure more funding for Baltimore's deteriorating school facilities. We will also be supporting a "down payment" on the Kirwan Commission, which will be developing a new state funding formula over the upcoming months.

BEC's Solutions Summit

Tuesday, February 27, 2018
6:00-8:00pm (Dinner served/program starts at 6:30 PM)
Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis, Room 170/180

Parents, students, teachers, and community advocates will have an opportunity to meet directly with legislators who represent Baltimore City and other counties to discuss the condition of their school facilities and securing a down payment ("lockbox" casino revenue) for a new education funding formula.



BALTIMORE EDUCATION COALITION

- Dinner provided & children welcome to attend
- Bus or van transportation provided - Depart from various locations in Baltimore at 4:15-4:45 PM - RSVP below for bus locations
- **RSVP REQUIRED: BaltimoreEdCoalition@gmail.com or call 410.889.8550 x 123**

ACLU's Legislative Priorities Maryland General Assembly 2018

1. *Full and Adequate Funding*
2. *Kirwan/Funding Bills*
3. *School Construction and Maintenance*
4. *Strong School Climate*
5. *Public Dollars for Public Schools*

Ensure Full and Adequate Funding of Public Education. As of FY15, there was a \$1.6 billion statewide "adequacy gap" - that is the amount by which the current formula was underfunded (now nearly four years ago). Inadequate education funding is an ongoing and urgent concern. The current formula is problematic due to factors including outdated wealth measures, dramatic shifts in the student population and student needs, and flat funding over the years. We are committed to working for more resources, ensuring a thorough review of the funding formula that centers equity, and restoring the Governor's funding cuts to education programs outside of the formula.

Support Kirwan/ Funding Bills. The "Kirwan" Commission has extended its timeline for updating the statewide education funding formula. Over the spring and summer, the Commission will split into subgroups to define and cost out initial policy priorities which include: (1) Early Childhood Education; (2) High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders; (3) Rigorous College and Career Pathways; (4) More Support for High-needs Students; and (5) Governance and Accountability. The ACLU will continue to urge policymakers to put resources where they are most needed. We will work toward implementation of initial Kirwan recommendations in 2018 (after- & summer school for high-poverty schools and pre-k, among others) and track bills meant to protect additional dollars that flow to the Education Trust Fund.


Support Programs for Public School Construction and Building Repairs. No child should attend schools without adequate heating, cooling, fire alarm systems, science labs, etc. School districts across the state have over \$20 billion in unmet school construction needs. While Baltimore's new 21st Century Schools Program is estimated to reconstruct 23-28 Baltimore school buildings, there are more than 100 city school buildings in serious disrepair that are not covered by the program. The ACLU-MD will work to:

- Establish an emergency fund for school facilities so that school districts can access funding quickly
- Support a statewide assessment of all Maryland school buildings as recommended by the Knott Commission to ensure that the state has accurate data on school building conditions
- Support the expansion of the City Schools' 21st Century Schools Program

Support Strong School Climate. We support legislation that seeks to create positive school climate and equity in schools and classrooms. Ineffective discipline practices negatively impact thousands of students across the state causing them to lose critical instruction time, fall behind, and have a greater likelihood of dropping out. In an effort to improve and transform school environments, we support practices that address inappropriate behavior and teach problem-solving skills such as restorative practices. We will support legislation that pushes for better training and greater specialized supports for students and school staff.

Oppose Public Funds for Private & Religious Schools. In 2017, the Governor added millions to the budget appropriation for the Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Act or "BOOST" voucher program for students to attend private schools. While the BOOST program was billed as a way to expand opportunity to students from low-income families, 73% of the scholarships are going to students who were already enrolled in private schools. We oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to fund private schools that do not meet state accountability standards and often discriminate against vulnerable populations, including students with disabilities and LGBTQ students and teachers.

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