



**Commission on Innovation and  
Excellence in Education:  
Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

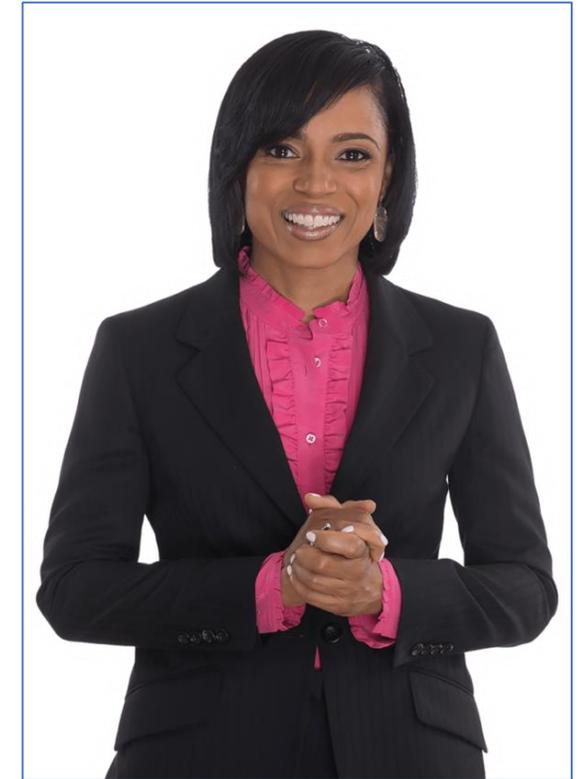
**Briefing Before the Prince George's  
County Council  
November 5, 2019**

**Alvin Thornton, Ph.D.  
Chair, Board of Education**



**From Thurgood (1954) to Thornton (2002) to Kirwan (2020): Adequate  
and Equitable Education Funding for All Children**

An Empowering Historical and Contemporary Narrative to Support the Education of Our Children and Development of Our County



A successful Blueprint for Maryland's Future depends on a broad integrated, historically-grounded governing consensus about public education performance and accountability

**Angelica Brooks (2019 County Teacher of the Year) and Theresa Banks (Foundational Teacher and Civil Rights Leader)**

## A Critical Leadership Role for the County's Board of Education



### *Prince George's County, Maryland Board of Education*

Alvin Thornton, Ph.D, Chair; Edward Burroughs, Jr., Vice Chair; David Murray; Joshua Thomas; Pamela Boozer-Strother; Raaheela Ahmed; Belinda Queen; K. Alexander Wallace; Sonya Williams; Paul Monteiro; Sandra Shephard; Curtis Valentine; and Joshua Omolola (Student Member)

*“To provide an excellent education that empowers all students and contributes to thriving communities”*



By providing students in our Nation with such an education, we help save our children from the clutches of poverty, crime, drugs, and hopelessness, and we help safeguard our Nation's prosperity for generations yet unborn.

(Elijah Cummings)



Equal education  
is the civil rights  
issue of the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century



Alexy Okie, Frederick Douglass H.S. I.B. honors student with a 4.30 average



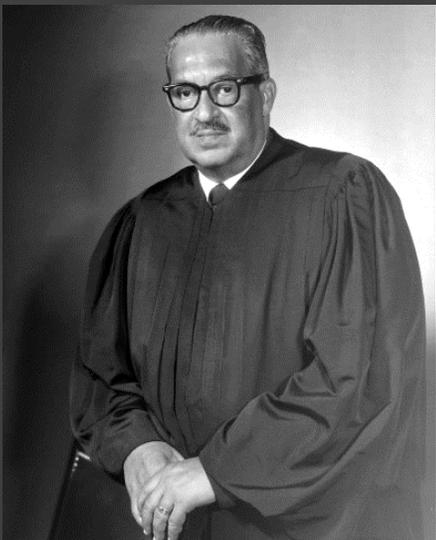
Constitutional,  
Political,  
Economic,  
Moral and  
Justice  
Imperative

## Adequate and Equitably Funded and Accountable Public Education is Today's Civil Rights Agenda because It is the Great Equalizer!

**THE MARYLAND STATE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO "ESTABLISH THROUGHOUT THE STATE A THOROUGH AND EFFICIENT SYSTEM OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AND SHALL PROVIDE BY TAXATION OR OTHERWISE FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE."**

**THE STATE AGREED TO UPHOLD ITS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY BY ENACTING THE BRIDGE TO EXCELLENCE ACT (THORNTON COMMISSION) IN 2002.**

**TODAY, MARYLAND IS POISED TO REAFFIRM THIS DUTY TO OUR STUDENTS BY ENACTING AND FUNDING THE BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE (KIRWAN COMMISSION).**



Article 8's thorough and efficient constitutional standard and the equal rights provision are not being met by the current funding formula.

Maryland has large academic achievement gaps based on income, race, and disability – legacy of state enforced racial segregation under-funding education.

53% of African American students attend schools in districts (mostly in Baltimore City and Prince George's County) at 85% or below the Thornton *Bridge to Excellence* adequacy levels (2015). The pattern is also true for Latinx students.

Only 8% of white students attend such schools.\*

**Prevent community and electoral systems from developing as extensions of the funding differences**

# Significant Progress is Needed in the Academic Performance of Our Students

- Although Maryland has many excellent schools and outstanding teachers, we do not have enough of them. Overall, Maryland students under-perform on learning outcomes.
- Fewer than 40% of Maryland high school graduates are college and career ready.
- Maryland is in the middle of the pack on NAEP (2015) scores.
  - 29<sup>th</sup> in 4<sup>th</sup> grade math
  - 26<sup>th</sup> in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading
  - 25<sup>th</sup> in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math
  - 18<sup>th</sup> in 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading
- The U.S. is in the middle of the pack on PISA scores.

## We Must Elevate the Teaching Profession and Hold It Accountable for Desired Results



County Government and School System  
Addressing Teacher and Staff Compensation in  
Prince George's County (2019)

- Average salaries for teachers in Maryland are 25% below those of professions with comparable education requirements (*e.g.*, accountants, nurses, architects) (2017).
- Maryland faces significant teacher shortages, especially in STEM areas.
- According to a 2015 MSDE report, nearly half (47%) of teachers in their second year of teaching will not return for a third year.\*

# Maryland's Current Education Funding Formula is Unacceptably Regressive

- Maryland education funding (State and local funds) is among the more regressive in the United States.

- | <u>State</u> | <u>No Low Income</u> | <u>30% or more</u> |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|

New Jersey	\$15,095	\$18,054
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Massachusetts	\$14,172	\$15,546
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Maryland	\$13,495	\$12,279
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- High-performing systems invest significantly more in schools serving high concentrations of poverty.

**Initial progress made under the 2002 Thornton Bridge to Excellence Funding Formula was not sustained**

# Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education



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## The Commission Membership and Charge

The 25-member Commission was created in the 2016 legislative session by the Governor and the General Assembly to:

Develop policies and practices so that Maryland's schools perform at the level of the world's best systems

Develop cost estimates and update the 2002 Thornton "Bridge to Excellence" funding formula to support the Commission's recommendations

**Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Alonzo Washington Are  
Members of the Commission**

# Commission on Innovation and Excellence: Current Status

“Knowledge makes a person unfit to be a slave and prepared to participate in the art of democracy and community development.”

The Commission approved, without dissent, detailed policy recommendations and total costs for the plan

Detailed ten-year implementation plan in all five policy areas completed

Total annual PreK-12 expenditures phased in and rising by \$3.8 billion (State and local) by year 10

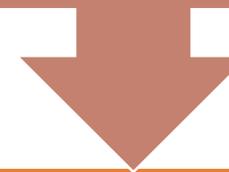
*The  
Blueprint for  
Maryland's  
Future*  
2019  
Legislation

2019 Senate  
Bill 1030

Presiding Officers and Legislators on the Commission were the bill's sponsors



Bill embraced Commission's policy framework, set aside funding for next three fiscal years and was overwhelmingly approved by General Assembly



Commission asked to make recommendations by December 1, 2019 on the following:

Division of costs between State and local jurisdictions;

Funding formulas to support recommendations; and

Implementation schedule of policy and funding recommendations

# Education Funding Reform Timeline

## 2014-15

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- Adequacy and Equity Study Conducted Updating “Thornton” Formula Adequacy and Equity Analysis (Augenblick, Palaich and Associates)

## 2016

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- Adequacy Study Completed
- Kirwan Commission Formed

## 2017

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- Kirwan Meets & Adopts National Center on Education & the Economy (NCEE) Framework

## 2018

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- Kirwan Preliminary Report
- Kirwan “lite” funding/bill passes
- Workgroups/Recommendations
- Question 1 passes

## 2019

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- Kirwan Interim Report
- NCEE Framework Costed Out
- Kirwan “Blueprint” bill passes
- Kirwan Funding Workgroup Formulated Recommendations
- Kirwan final “report” due 12-1-19

## 2020

## **Kirwan Funding & Policy Bill**

Block 1: Provide strong support for children and their families before students arrive at school

Block 2: Provide more resources for at-risk students

Blocks 3 & 4: Enhance instructional systems and gateways

Block 5: Ensure an abundant supply of highly qualified teachers

Block 6: Redesign schools to be places in which teachers will be treated as professionals

Block 7: Create a system of career and technical education and training

Block 8: Create an enhanced leadership development system

Block 9: Enhance the Governance System

Commission reached consensus on recommendations in five major policy areas to be phased in over the next 10 years:

- Invest in early childhood education
- Transform teaching and school leadership into high quality and high-status merit-based professions
- Implement a rigorous curricula, benchmarked to international standards and leading to college ready and industry certified workforce credentials
- Ensure all students are successful by providing significantly more support for schools that need it most, including students attending schools with high concentrations of poverty and struggling learners
- Establish a rigorous governance and accountability structure with meaningful consequences for under performance

# Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) Total Costs

- To fully implement the recommendations from all five policy areas, total annual expenditures would increase by \$3.8 billion (State and local funds) by year 10 (FY 2030).
- The annual cost for Policy Area 1 (Early Ed.) begins at \$29 million and increases to \$814.4 million by year 10.
- The annual cost (State and local) to implement Policy Area 2 (Teachers/Leaders) begins at \$172.8 million and increases to \$2.8 billion by year 10.
- The annual cost (State and local) to implement Policy Area 3 (CCR/CTE) begins at \$46.6 million and increases to \$149.7 million by year 10.
- The annual cost to implement Policy Area 4 (Foundation/Weights) begins at \$331.5 million and increases to \$2.2 billion by year 10.





Blueprint for Maryland's  
Future Funding Formula  
Workgroup  
Chaired by Dr. Kirwan

Appointed by Presiding Officers

Completed its recommendations to the Commission, that:

- are completely aligned with the goals and priorities of the Commission
- take a major and critically important step toward addressing the funding inequities based on income and race
- require the counties to match state funding in all the special needs categories
- provide additional State support for the less wealthy counties that have exhausted their taxing capacity

Commission will consider the recommendations and complete its final report  
in December of 2019

## Federal, State and Local Funding for Public Education Must Increase With Necessary Accountability for Its Use

State education aid will grow at an annual rate of about 5.6% over the 10-year period.

Direct State education aid in fiscal year 2030 will exceed \$10.2 billion, \$2.8 billion more than would be allocated under the Thornton formula and current law.

Local governments will be expected to fund the local share of existing and new formulas beginning in fiscal year 2022, totaling \$8.9 billion in fiscal year 2030.

New education funding formula will go into effect beginning in fiscal year 2022 at which point local governments are expected to share in the expense of implementing the Commission's recommendations.

The direct State aid proposed by the Commission is allocated on a wealth equalized basis, increasing the progressivity of the State's education finance system.

No local share is required in fiscal year 2021. Beginning in fiscal year 2022, local governments are expected to contribute their wealth equalized share for most components of the funding formula.

### Comparing Aid to Local Appropriations and Local Share FY 2030 \$ in Millions

	Additional County	Additional State	Total Additional (County + State)
Allegany	\$0.0	\$43.5	\$43.5
Anne Arundel	98.8	173.9	272.7
Baltimore City	329.4	502.6	832.0
Baltimore	88.4	347.7	436.1
Calvert	0.0	37.6	37.6
Caroline	5.2	19.7	24.9
Carroll	0.0	54.3	54.3
Cecil	14.0	48.7	62.6
Charles	0.0	78.7	78.7
Dorchester	0.9	27.1	28.0
Frederick	6.3	114.4	120.8
Garrett	1.3	7.8	9.1
Harford	9.2	110.2	119.4
Howard	0.0	142.6	142.6
Kent	8.6	2.6	11.3
Montgomery	262.7	234.8	497.5
Prince George's	360.9	570.8	931.7 ✓
Queen Anne's	0.0	14.5	14.5
St. Mary's	0.0	59.4	59.4
Somerset	0.0	15.6	15.6
Talbot	21.5	5.3	26.8
Washington	5.9	90.0	95.9
Wicomico	9.4	73.8	83.2
Worcester	5.3	7.0	12.3
Unallocated	0.0	-9.7	0.0
	<b>\$1,227.9</b>	<b>\$2,773.0</b>	<b>\$4,010.5</b>

# Required County Contributions Will be Substantial

## Comparing Aid to Local Appropriations and Local Share

Fiscal 2030  
\$ in Millions

	Projected Current Local Appropriations	Local Share	Greater Of	Difference	% Increase
Allegany	\$38.3	\$37.7	\$38.3	\$0	0%
Anne Arundel	895.6	994.4	994.4	98.8	11%
Baltimore City	331.8	661.2	661.2	329.4	99%
Baltimore	993.0	1,081.4	1,081.4	88.4	9%
Calvert	167.8	113.7	167.8	0.0	0%
Caroline	18.5	23.7	23.7	5.2	28%
Carroll	246.4	201.7	246.4	0.0	0%
Cecil	102.9	116.9	116.9	14.0	14%
Charles	254.7	196.2	254.7	0.0	0%
Dorchester	26.1	26.9	26.9	0.9	3%
Frederick	343.9	350.2	350.2	6.3	2%
Garrett	38.9	40.2	40.2	1.3	3%
Harford	302.2	311.4	311.4	9.2	3%
Howard	787.1	557.7	787.1	0.0	0%
Kent	21.1	29.7	29.7	8.6	41%
Montgomery	1,945.5	2,208.2	2,208.2	262.7	14%
Prince George's	952.7	1,313.6	1,313.6	360.9	38%
Queen Anne's	77.6	76.0	77.6	0.0	0%
St. Mary's	138.2	126.9	138.2	0.0	0%
Somerset	12.9	12.0	12.9	0.0	0%
Talbot	53.7	75.2	75.2	21.5	40%
Washington	130.8	136.7	136.7	5.9	5%
Wicomico	58.1	67.5	67.5	9.4	16%
Worcester	113.7	119.1	119.1	5.3	5%
Unallocated	0.0	0.0	0	0	
	<b>\$8,051.4</b>	<b>\$8,878.2</b>	<b>\$9,279.3</b>	<b>\$1,227,859,393</b>	<b>15%</b>

The local share contributions from counties will have to increase by an average of 15%, ranging from 0% to 99%.

In Prince George's County, the percentage of increase would be 38%.



We must educate the public about the "Blueprint for Maryland's Future" and its implications for the future development of the county and their communities.

# Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) Funding Formula Workgroup

## Key components and decision points to develop funding formulas

- Enrollment
- Per Pupil Foundation Amount
- Per Pupil Weights
- Cost of Education Index
- State Share Floors
- Local Share Calculation
- Local Wealth Formula
- Maintenance of Effort
- 10-Year Phase In Approach

**During November 2019, the Workgroup Funding Formula Recommendations Will Be Considered by the Full Kirwan Commission**



## We should build upon the visionary Thornton “Bridge to Excellence” Framework and Pass and Implement the Kirwan “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future”

- The Kirwan Commission has developed a report that would transform Maryland Pre K- 12 education into a high-performing system and make it competitive internationally.
- The cost is significant, but what are the long-term costs of failing to act?
- Can we thrive as a state with only 40% of high school graduates deemed “college and career ready” at current standards?
- Costs off set by increased incomes, lower social services needs, and reduced imprisonment costs.
- Help the state avoid costly and divisive litigation related to education funding disparities.
- Polls show Marylanders overwhelmingly support increased funding for PreK-12 education and are willing to share their wealth with Maryland’s children.

With a fully funded Bridge to Excellence statute, Maryland rose to #1 in the nation



A broad-based state and local government, business, civic, labor and religious coalition is necessary to pass and fund the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Legislation

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**“Our Children Are Our Gifts to the Future That We Will Never See.”** Congressman Elijah Cummings

# We Must Turn to Each Other On Behalf of Our Children and Share Our Wealth With Them

- The people of Maryland should not be divided into tax and anti-tax, racial, partisan, regional (suburban/urban), and income isolated antagonistic groups in pursuit of short-sighted ideological and electoral goals unrelated to the education of our children.
- The ***Commission on Innovation and Excellence*** recommendations (Kirwan Commission) are sound. The Kirwan Formula Work Group's direct state aid and local share proposal is also sound.
- Leaders at all levels should continue working together to design an appropriate implementation and funding plan. As we did in 2002, with the passage of the historic and innovative ***Bridge to Excellence Statute*** (Thornton Commission), we must turn to each other, and not away from each other, on behalf of our children and our future.
- Adequate and equitably funded education that is accountable and excellent is never too costly. We must support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.



**State and county leaders and education advocates at a 2015 press conference at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis in support of adequate and equitable public education funding.**