

# The Kirwan Commission

Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education



**WHAT IS THE KIRWAN COMMISSION?** The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education ("Commission"), also referred to as the "Kirwan Commission," named for the Chair of the Commission, William "Brit" Kirwan, Chancellor Emeritus of the University System of Maryland, was created by legislation in 2016. It brings together representatives from across the State to review the findings of the Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in Maryland, hear from national experts on world class education systems, and make **recommendations for improving education in Maryland through funding, policies, and resources that will prepare Maryland students "to meet the challenges of a changing global economy, to meet the State's workforce needs, to be prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce, and to be successful citizens in the 21st century."** The Commission will submit its final recommendations report to the Governor by December 31, 2017.

**WHAT'S AT STAKE?** This Commission and the resulting legislation will **determine the formula for school funding across Maryland for the next decade and more!** Our schools have not received the funds they require to give our children the education and resources they need and deserve. Now is our chance to ensure that we don't repeat the past – more funding now!

**WHAT DO WE NEED?** The Commission has a lot to consider, but ACY would like to see the following issues addressed in the Commission's recommendations. **INCREASED BASE AND WEIGHTS** The Commission must increase its base amount of funding per pupil and the weights for special populations must remain high enough to address the additional resources and services needed to educate students in Maryland schools. **UNIVERSAL PRE-K** There must be funding to provide access to high quality, childhood programming/prekindergarten for 4 year olds and (low income) 3 year olds. **POVERTY PROXY** The Commission must adopt an efficient and effective way to count low-income students, such as direct certification with a multiplier, in order to properly direct funding and resources to the schools with greater need. Any additional form is burdensome and counter-productive. **MULTIPLICATIVE WEALTH CALCULATION** The multiplicative wealth measure will provide a more accurate reflection of a jurisdiction's ability to pay, it results in state and local contribution targets that ensure all students receive the same funding across the state. **ADDRESS CONCENTRATED POVERTY** The Commission recommendations must include resources to combat the negative impacts of poverty on school communities, which could be in the form of an additional weight or an escalator that provides additional funding for schools at a certain threshold of poverty.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Chair: Dr. William (Brit) Kirwan
- State Senators: Nancy J. King, Richard S. Madaleno, Jr., Paul G. Pinsky, Steve Waugh
- State Delegates: Adrienne A. Jones, Anne R. Kaiser, Maggie McIntosh, Alonzo T. Washington
- David R. Brinkley, Secretary, of Department of Budget and Management
- Dr. Robert L. Caret, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland
- Scott E. Dorsey, Merritt Properties, Chairman/CEO,
- Dr. Chester E. Finn, State Board of Education
- Stephen H. Guthrie, Carroll County Superintendent
- David E. Helfman, Maryland State Educators Association (MSEA)
- Kalman (Buzzy) Hettleman, Education Advocate
- Elizabeth Ysla Leight, MDPTA
- Leslie R. Pellegrino, Frederick County Public Schools CFO
- Craig L. Rice, Montgomery County Councilmember, Maryland Association of Counties (MACO)
- Dr. Karen Salmon, State Superintendent
- Joy Schaefer, Maryland Association of Boards of Education
- Morgan Showalter, Baltimore Teachers Union
- Dr. David M. Steiner, Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy
- William Valentine, Allegheny County Commissioner (MACO)
- Margaret E. Williams, Executive Director, Maryland Family Network

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## COMMISSION TIMELINE & WORK PLAN

The Commission will continue to meet regularly throughout 2017 and submit a report to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly in December 2017.

The Commission will review the *Final Report of the Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in Maryland*, completed by the consultants from Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates hired by MSDE to review education funding in Maryland, as well as the **9 Building Blocks for a World-Class Education System**, compiled by experts from the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE), who will present at each meeting of the Commission.

Regular meetings are held from **9:30 am to 5:00 pm in the House Appropriations Committee Room**, located in the Lowe House Office Building, Room 120, 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. Public Comment is invited at the end of each regular meeting.

They have also scheduled four meetings across the State to hear from community members.

## REGIONAL HEARING DATES

Four evening meetings, **6:30 pm – 8:30 pm** will be held across the State to hear from the community:

- **September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Stevensville Middle School  
610 Main Street  
Stevensville, MD 21666
- **September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
LYNX at Frederick High School  
650 Carroll Parkway  
Frederick, MD 21701
- **October 12<sup>th</sup>** (starting at 5:00pm)  
Baltimore Polytechnic High School  
1400 W. Cold Spring Lane  
Baltimore, MD 21209
- **October 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Largo High School  
505 Largo Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

## SIGN UP TO TESTIFY!

Email [PreK-12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:PreK-12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us) or call Mindy McConville or Kim Landry at (410) 946-5510 or (301)970-5510 **by noon on the date of the hearing** and provide the following info: **(1)** name and contact info **(2)** location of hearing **(3)** organization, if applicable • Sign-up sheets will also be available at each location at 6:00pm (except Baltimore City) • Individuals will be called to testify in the order in which they sign up.

## REGULAR MEETING DATES

- September 29, 2016
- October 31, 2016
- December 8, 2016
- January 9, 2017
- April 26, 2017
- June 1, 2017
- June 28, 2017
- July 26, 2017
- August 30, 2017
- September 14, 2017
- October 12, 2017
- October 25, 2017
- November 16, 2017
- November 30, 2017
- December 20, 2017

## SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT!

Email [PreK-12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us](mailto:PreK-12InnovationandExcellenceCommission@mlis.state.md.us) or call Mindy McConville at (410)946-5510 no later than 48 hours before the meeting date • 3 minutes per speaker • 75 copies of written testimony must be delivered to Room 120 House Office Building by noon of the day prior to the meeting.

## LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Kirwan Commission Homepage  
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmgg/frmmain.aspx?pid=cmtepage&tab=subject7&id=iee&stab=01>
- Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State Of Maryland Homepage (MSDE)  
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/adequacystudy/index.aspx>
- National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE): *9 Building Blocks for a World-Class Education System* <http://ncee.org/what-we-do/center-on-international-education-benchmarking/9-building-blocks/> (Report: <http://ncee.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/9-blocksv011217.pdf>)

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