ADDRESS COVID-19 IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Background
We must lay a foundation now to ensure that the disruptions children are experiencing caused by COVID-19 does not further undermine their economic security, mental and emotional health, and academic success for the rest of their lives. These concerns mean that we must preserve, protect, prioritize, and adapt Pre-k – 12 education investments in ways that account for the economic impact of COVID-19, yet does not scale back on much needed resources for the education of Maryland’s children.

Solution
- Monitor the state budget and potential revenue sources for Pre-k – 12 educational investments to make sure no significant cuts are made and that investments address the impact of COVID-19 on children’s education.
- Address critical issues facing students resulting from the pandemic:
  - Learning loss. Ensure that both academic and social emotional learning resources are available for struggling students, special needs students, and students populations that need additional supports.
  - Digital divide. Ensure that students and school personal have individual access to digital devices and internet service.
  - Student engagement. We need data to understand the number of students in Maryland who are enrolled in school; the number of students enrolled, but not attending school; and students who are completely disconnected from distance learning opportunities and perhaps never participated in online learning.

Impact
77% adult households with at least one child has experienced a change in the way education is received for their child with distance learning being the most common approach. We know that nationally kindergarten enrollment has dropped.

Collaborating Partners
Maryland Education Coalition
Blueprint Coalition
Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline
Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity in Education
Baltimore Digital Equity Coalition