**BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND’S FUTURE**

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future sets the pace for providing a world-class education for all 900,000 Maryland public school students regardless of zip code.

Implementation of the Blueprint over the next five years dedicates resources to increase access to early childhood education programs, invest in high-quality teachers and leaders, improve standards for college and career readiness pathways, foster stronger connections between governance and accountability, and address COVID-related impacts around learning loss, the digital divide, and wrap-around services.

**HB 1300 (2020)**

**TUITION EXEMPTION FOR FOSTER CARE RECIPIENTS AND HOMELESS YOUTH**

Expands the definition of “homeless youth” who are eligible to receive a tuition waiver at a public institution of higher education by removing the requirements that the youth (1) be “unaccompanied” and (2) qualify as an independent student under federal law. A foster care recipient or homeless youth who receives a tuition waiver must receive priority consideration for on-campus housing. Each public institution of higher education must make the application for the tuition waiver available to current and prospective students and notify students about the application. Finally, each public institution must designate a homeless and foster student liaison with specific expertise to assist specified students to apply for financial aid.

**SB 155**

**JUVENILE RESTORATION ACT**

Prohibits courts from imposing life sentences for youth under eighteen, regardless of charge or jurisdiction. This bill also stipulates that youth who are convicted as adults may file a motion to reduce the duration of their sentence.

Governor Hogan tried to veto this bill, however his veto was overridden before Sine Die.

**HB 409/SB 494**

**IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING**

Requires that not only medical providers that treat pregnant individuals, but all medical providers participate in implicit bias training. Bias by medical providers is a leading cause of the racial disparities in birth outcomes for both Black birthing individuals and Black babies across Maryland.

**HB 28/SB 5**

**RACIAL IMPACT STATEMENTS**

These statements ensure that recommended bills do not create or increase disparate outcomes among people of different races or ethnicities. Introducing racial impact statements on new criminal justice bills is only the beginning of creating a more equitable Maryland for all.

**SB 299**

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Ensures that birthing individuals remain eligible for Medical Assistance for a full year after giving birth. Right now, some individuals have Medicaid coverage for only 60-90 days after giving birth. This situation is particularly acute for Black individuals, who are 4 times more likely to die within a year of giving birth than White individuals, and 54% of the deaths of black individuals who give birth are during this time frame.

This session, we worked hard to advance equity for all kids, despite the virtual hearings and long nights. We advocated for policies, programs, and procedures that will help children, youth, and families of all races, ethnicities, and places of birth across Maryland reach their full potential. Below are highlights of our advances toward equity.

**RACIAL IMPACT STATEMENTS**

**PROCEDURAL**

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**PRESEVE TELTHEALTH ACCESS ACT OF 2021**

SB 348/SB 592

Ensures that, when clinically appropriate, even after the COVID-19 pandemic ends, families who choose to access medical and behavioral health appointments via telehealth can make that choice. The telehealth option can eliminate barriers including the time and logistics of transportation, securing childcare, and even taking extended time off from work.

**TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE**

SB 299

Gives the Maryland Commission on Behavioral Health Care Access and Quality a mandate to create a commission to ensure that trauma-informed care is provided to all individuals regardless of age or stage of development.

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

SB 293

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