What Is The Blueprint?
The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (HB1300) is a once-in-a-generation bill that would transform Maryland’s public education system. It would provide

- More wrap-around school services like school-based health centers
- Full-day pre-K for eligible 3 & 4 year old
- Literacy intervention for K-3 students
- Funds needed to support students experiencing poverty & attending schools with concentrations of poverty
- Better pay, more planning time, and a new career ladder system for teachers
- Create more assistance to help teachers get certified and provide better teacher training.
- More pathways for to be college and career ready by graduation, for all students, including English Language Learners and students in Special Education programs.

What’s Happened So Far?

- In 2016, Governor Larry Hogan appointed William ‘Brit’ Kirwan to lead the Commission.
- In 2019, the Commission completed its work and made its recommendations to the General Assembly of Maryland.
- On March 17, 2020, the Maryland General Assembly passed The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future with an overwhelming majority.
- On May 7, 2020 Larry Hogan vetoed the Blueprint, citing the economic downturn due to COVID-19.
- When the next legislative session starts, the General Assembly will have the opportunity to override the veto.
Maryland is the wealthiest state in the nation, but has a public education system that performs far from the top of the nation. We have the resources to build a truly child-focused, enriching educational system for all of Maryland’s students, especially students who come from communities affected by systemic racism and disenfranchisement.

Support for the Blueprint is widespread! Educators, education advocates, families, mental health professionals, business leaders all believe that this bill points towards a better future for all of Maryland’s students.

Education around the state of Maryland has suffered from a lack of adequate pay, lack of teacher retention, and lack of teacher recruitment. We need to be doing more for our teachers or our teacher shortage crisis will only get worse! There are already arts educator shortages in every discipline (but especially dance and theatre).

Too many Maryland students are not being prepared for the future. The Blueprint’s revision to the structure of education would allow more students to find ways to explore their talents and take courses that prepare them for college or help them get certification in a trade that would lead to a good career.

With COVID-19 dramatically affecting the economy, public school systems will suffer from the lack of tax revenue unless the state moves to better-fund Maryland’s public schools. ALL subject areas would benefit from the funding increases the Blueprint provides, including the arts!

Why You Should Care

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