



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

June 20, 2019

Dear Members:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Funding Formula Workgroup of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education. We understand the challenge ahead of you and appreciate your willingness to give your time and effort to this worthy endeavor.

As you know, the Commission has been working tirelessly for two and a half years to develop The Blueprint for Maryland's Future – a ten year plan to make Maryland's public schools more competitive nationally and globally. The Maryland General Assembly has passed several bills to demonstrate the legislature's commitment to improving the State's public school system by better valuing teachers; increasing student opportunity; levelling the playing field for students, regardless of income; and, instilling more accountability.

As you may have read in the announcement, we have charged this group with working through a very challenging portion of the entire Blueprint effort: identifying how the funding will work. Specifically, we are asking the Workgroup to:

- Make recommendations for the distribution of funds, by LEA and between State and local governments, for the programmatic recommendations in the Kirwan Commission policy report; and
- Make recommendations for specific funding formulas for ongoing costs within the Kirwan Commission policy recommendations.

Additionally, we asked that the Workgroup look at other issues that are affected by the funding formulas including prioritize the order of funding for programmatic recommendations of the Commission policy report, and how to ensure that as the state increases their expenditures for education, counties are contributing their share of the formulas. These should be done in collaboration and consultation with the Commission.

We understand how complicated and extensive this charge is, given the breadth of the Commission's report, which is why we wanted to assemble this group of experts in a variety of areas of education and government to make fully vetted recommendations.

We ask for your recommendations and review by the Commission this fall so that the General Assembly may consider these during the 2020 legislative session. We fully expect that the Commission will vote on your recommendations prior to the end of this calendar year.

Thank you for your commitment to the State and to this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House



Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr.
President of the Senate