

Support for Kirwan Commission Recommendations

“There is no topic more important to the quality of life of Marylanders than that addressed by the Commission. Maryland’s preK-12 education system today is average among the states and failing among the nations with which we most often compete for jobs. The Commission’s recommendations, if implemented, provide a means to reverse the current pattern of decline.”

Norman Augustine, former CEO of Lockheed Martin Corp

“Maryland's Commission represented all the major education stakeholders in the state. It was one of the first to be charged with making recommendations about what it will take for the state to reach the levels of educational achievement and equity accomplished by the leading countries in the world...With help from the National Center on Education and the Economy, the Commission relied on some of the best research, evidence and expertise that the U.S. and other countries have to offer. The resulting plan is powerful, coherent, and if pursued and appropriately refined over time, could vault Maryland to a position of global leadership in education...This moment is a propitious one for strong gains in Maryland and for offering guidance to other states that are looking to create a coherent approach to creating an excellent and equitable education system.”

Linda Darling Hammond, president and CEO, Learning Policy Institute and president, California State Board of Education

“There are very few states that have been able to put together a cogent plan that brings together the major levers that could result in substantial improvement in student achievement, respect for educators, opportunities for young children, and career needs for high school graduates. Throw in coordinated provisions for governance, attention to at-risk kids, and school leadership opportunities and you have a real chance at true reform in education. That is what the Maryland Commission is presenting, and I hope State leadership will move boldly to implement their recommendations.”

“What is needed is to get people to recognize that this is a bigger issue than my family or my kids or whatever, that this is not only about the state of Maryland. This is about our country and our future.”

David Driscoll, former Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

"The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education has issued a call to action for the adoption of policy frameworks that would significantly elevate teaching and learning in

Maryland. Our students deserve a world-class education. I urge every Maryland leader to answer this call.”

Nancy Grasmick, former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools

“Over more than 40 years, I have worked with governors, legislators, educators, and corporate leaders in 22 states to develop specific policies and funding to promote systemic education change. Without a doubt, the Kirwan Commission’s recommendations are the best.”

David Hornbeck, former State Superintendent and former Superintendent of Philadelphia Schools

“If you make this happen, I think Maryland will surely become the nation’s education reform and child development leader. If Kentucky got us started and Massachusetts made it happen, you’re going to lead us into the next generation of this reform.”

Paul Reville, former Massachusetts Secretary of Education

“When adults fight, kids lose. ...That’s what we’ve got to resist: throwing stones at one another. And instead spend our time working together to build the case for doing this for the social and economic future of this state.”

Jack Smith, Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent
