
**Summary of Senate Bill 1030
(Chapter 771) of 2019 –
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

**Department of Legislative Services
Office of Policy Analysis
Annapolis, Maryland**

October 30, 2019

Summary of The Blueprint for Maryland's Future

The law establishes The Blueprint for Maryland's Future as the policy blueprint to transform the State's education system into a world-class system and establishes and provides funding for several programs based on the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (*i.e.*, Kirwan Commission) in its January 2019 Interim Report.

Achieving The Blueprint for Maryland's Future will require a sustained and coordinated effort in **five main policy areas** as recommended by the Kirwan Commission:

- **Policy Area 1: Early support and interventions for young children and their families**, including full-day prekindergarten that is free for low-income three- and four-year-olds and expanding services and supports for birth to two-year-olds and their families;
- **Policy Area 2: High-quality and diverse teachers and school leaders**, including elevating the teaching profession comparable to other fields with the same education and with comparable compensation, establishing a career ladder so that excellent teachers remain in the classroom, and increasing the rigor of teacher preparation programs and State certification standards;
- **Policy Area 3: A college and career readiness (CCR) standard set at the level required to virtually guarantee success in the first year of a community college program**, with Maryland schools focused on getting most students to CCR by the end of tenth grade, and nearly all by the end of high school; providing supports for students who are not on track for CCR; and providing post-CCR pathways for students who achieve CCR, including early college programs that allow a student to earn an associate degree at no cost while in high school and career and technical education pathways that lead to an industry-recognized credential;
- **Policy Area 4: Additional resources, supports, and services for students who need them** to achieve the CCR standard, including English learners, students with disabilities, and students from low-income families, with particular attention on students in schools with high concentrations of poverty; and
- **Policy Area 5: A strong accountability system** with the authority to hold all entities accountable for implementing The Blueprint for Maryland's Future effectively to ensure that all students are successful.

The **Commission's deadline to submit its final report is extended to December 1, 2019**, and the law **extends the due date for the special education study** report required under Chapter 715 of 2017, and expanded under Chapter 361 of 2018, **to December 1, 2019**. The law also updates

references to **the Consumer Price Index for the Washington Metropolitan Area** for purposes of determining the annual inflation rate for certain education formulas.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Department of Health must take specified steps toward the **use and sharing of Medicaid data as part of the direct certification process** to identify and verify student eligibility in the new information technology system that is currently under development by MSDE.

Expands/Extends Existing Grant Formulas in Current Law

- Expands full-day prekindergarten formula to include all four-year-olds being served in full-day public prekindergarten programs and extends the formula to fiscal 2021.
- Extends declining enrollment grants to fiscal 2021.
- Extends the current low-income student count methodology used for schools and school systems participating in the Community Eligibility Provision through fiscal 2025.

Establishes Programs to Increase Recruitment and Retention of High-quality Teachers

- Creates the Teacher Collaborative Grant Program for local boards, teacher preparation programs, and exclusive representatives to partner to develop model, state-of-the-art professional development programs for prospective and current teachers.
- Establishes the Teacher Salary Incentive Grant Program to increase teacher salaries for districts that provide at least 3% average salary increase for teachers in fiscal 2020, with priority given to increasing starting salaries and salaries for teachers with less than five years of experience, and level funds the grant in fiscal 2021.

Establishes Programs to Provide Additional Supports for Schools with Concentrated Poverty

- Creates a Concentration of Poverty School Grant Program to fund a community school coordinator and health practitioner coverage for schools with 80% or more students eligible for free and reduced-price meals in fiscal 2020 and 2021.

Allocates State Funding in Fiscal 2020 and 2021 for:

- local school systems to fund a mental health services coordinator that each local school system must appoint pursuant to the Safe to Learn Act (Chapter 30) of 2018;
- additional academic supports for struggling learners through Transitional Supplemental Instruction;
- additional special education services for students with disabilities; and
- training, outreach, and educational materials for elected officials, local school systems, teachers and parents on the vision, skills, and knowledge needed to implement The Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Accountability

- Establishes the Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education as an independent unit of State government to investigate complaints concerning, among other issues, fraud, waste, and abuse involving public funds and property and compliance with federal and State laws, contingent on the release of fiscal 2020 funding by the Governor.
- Creates the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability within the Department of Legislative Services and makes local school systems subject to a performance evaluation conducted by the office.
- Creates a small workgroup to study whether MSDE and the Maryland Higher Education Commission have the capability to carry out their responsibilities and duties and to implement The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, with findings and recommendations due December 1, 2019.
- Requires local school systems to report to the General Assembly, by December 1 of 2019 and 2020, on the use of the funds allocated by The Blueprint legislation to begin to implement the Commission's recommendations.

Special Fund

- Renames the Kirwan Commission Fund to The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund.
- Mandates funding and dedicates additional revenues to the special fund.

Revenues Currently Available for The Blueprint for Maryland's Future
(\$ in Millions)

	<u>FY 20</u>	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 22</u>
Education Trust Fund (ETF) Lockbox	\$100.8	\$225.8	\$350.8
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund	134.5	65.5	
Additional ETF	15.8	16.0	16.2
Teacher Induction, Retention and Advancement Pilot Program Unused Funds	4.0	4.0	4.0
Corporate Filing Fees		36.0	
Total	\$255.1	\$347.3	\$371.0
Marketplace Facilitators/Out-of-state Vendors ¹	40.0	60.0	66.7

Note: \$24.25 million of the first \$125 million ETF Lockbox allocation is not available for The Blueprint for Maryland's Future because it is being used to fund a portion of the 2018 Kirwan initiatives. FY 21 and FY 22 ETF revenues assume the full additional ETF Lockbox amount and additional ETF revenues are used to implement The Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Sales tax revenues from marketplace facilitators and out-of-state vendors that exceed \$100 million annually beginning in FY 20 are dedicated to The Blueprint Fund, contingent on enactment of HB 1301 (Chapter 735) of 2019.

¹September 2019 Board of Revenue Estimates report estimates \$40 million (above \$100 million) will be available for The Blueprint Fund in FY 20, \$60 million in FY 21, and \$80 million in FY 24.

Senate Bill 1030 Spending Priorities for The Blueprint for Maryland's Future
(\$ in Millions)

	<u>FY 20</u>	<u>FY 21</u>	<u>FY 22</u>
Full-day Prekindergarten for Four-year-olds	\$31.7	\$52.9	\$52.9
Teacher Salary Incentive Grants	75.0	75.0	75.0
Concentration of Poverty School Grants	54.6	58.7	58.7
Transitional Supplemental Instruction	23.0	23.0	23.0
Special Education	65.5	65.5	65.5
Mental Health Coordinators	2.0	2.0	2.0
Teacher Collaborative Grants	2.5	2.5	2.5
Outreach/training	0.3	0.3	0.3
Maryland State Department of Education IT System	0.5	0.2	0.2
Declining Enrollment Grants	-	16.7	-
The Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund	-	58.0	90.0
Subtotal	\$255.0	\$354.8	\$370.1
The Blueprint Fund Contingent on Revenues	-	TBD	\$130.0
Inspector General for Education Office	\$0.7	\$0.8	0.8
Total	\$255.7	\$355.6	\$500.9

Note: FY 20 funding for the Inspector General for Education is in the budget contingent on enactment of SB 1030 (Chapter 771) of 2019 and the Governor's release or transfer of FY 20 funding restricted in the budget for SB 1030 priorities. FY 21 and FY 22 The Blueprint Fund revenues are contingent on enactment of HB 1301. Up to \$95 million of those available revenues in FY 21 may be used to provide additional special education funding. FY 22 amounts assume level funding for programs except declining enrollment grants, which are scheduled to terminate after FY 21. Funding above \$370 million in FY 22 is contingent on additional available revenues enacted in the 2019 (including HB 1301) and 2020 sessions.

Source: Department of Legislative Services, October 2019