



BLUEPRINT for Maryland's FUTURE

More funding.

More staff.

**More
reasonable
workloads.**

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Equity and student success are at the heart of the Blueprint

In its final report, the Kirwan Commission—the group of policymakers who developed the Blueprint—says that its “final policy and resource recommendations were driven by the belief that all students, regardless of family income, race, ethnicity, language spoken, disabilities, or other needs, must have the resources they need for success,” clearly recognizing that special education must have dedicated Blueprint funds to meet student and educator needs.

For special educators, this means a huge investment in the staffing, resources, technology, and support that they need to do their jobs and provide students of all backgrounds with a free appropriate public education. Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1975 with a promise to fund 40% of the additional cost to serve students with disabilities. It has never come close to that promise—only once has it been funded more than 18%.

In the meantime, Maryland educators, like those in other states, have had to meet the requirements of the law, face monumental workloads, and beg state and local systems for relief and resources. Every year as local leaders and members negotiate their contracts with local boards of education, special educators fight for more time—more time for their students and more time to complete stacks of paperwork. And in Annapolis, MSEA leaders and members perennially lobby the General Assembly asking for support through legislation that supports more funding and more support. Now, with the passage of the Blueprint, educators will see a nearly 50% increase in state special education funding through fiscal year (FY) 2030*. Per pupil special education grants come as a percentage of foundation per pupil funding and reach a maximum of 153% in FY 2030—meaning that school systems will receive 153% of the foundation amount of per pupil funding for each student receiving special education services in the system. After FY 2030, funding levels out at 143% of the foundation per pupil funding.

The result of this massive increase in funding should be a sea change in the professional lives of special educators and the supports available to students receiving special education services.

To assure that state and local boards of education and special education departments are maximizing resources and funds and serving students as intended, the Blueprint includes a rigorous accountability structure through the Accountability and Implementation Board to ensure that all Blueprint funds are used as intended and not absorbed or redirected to central offices or MSDE.

**Maryland's fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.*

Learn more about the Blueprint for Maryland's Future at marylandeducators.org/Blueprint.



Per pupil special education funding as a percentage of the per pupil foundation amount:

SY 2021–2022 (FY 2022)	86%	2025–2026	103%	2029–2030	153%
2022–2023	86%	2026–2027	112%	2030–2031	151%
2023–2024	92%	2027–2028	122%	2031–2032	148%
2024–2025	99%	2028–2029	136%	2032–2033	146%

For each school year after 2033, special education funding as a percentage of the per pupil foundation amount holds steady at 146%.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future: A Five-Year Fight for Equity and Opportunity

2016

APRIL

- Legislation to create the Kirwan Commission unanimously passes the General Assembly.

DECEMBER

- An independent study finds Maryland schools are annually underfunded by \$2.9 billion.

2017

FALL

- The Kirwan Commission hosts public hearings across the state gathering citizen input.

2018

MARCH–NOVEMBER

- Momentum grows to ensure casino revenues benefit public education as intended. Legislators pass Fix the Fund legislation and voters pass Question 1 to add about \$500 million annually in increased school funding.

2019

JANUARY–MARCH

- The Kirwan Commission identifies five policy areas to be the focus of their work. 8,500 educators and friends of education March for Our Schools in Annapolis to support the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

APRIL

- Legislators pass an initial Blueprint bill covering four years of expanded programming. The Kirwan Commission establishes a workgroup to determine a funding formula.

FALL

- The Kirwan Commission issues its final report—including a new funding formula and game-changing investments in Maryland schools.

2020

JANUARY–FEBRUARY

- The General Assembly passes a second, comprehensive bill on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future which includes a revamped funding formula.

MAY

- Governor Hogan vetoes the Blueprint just as the pandemic shines a powerful light on existing inequities that disproportionately harm Black, Brown, and rural communities.

2021

FEBRUARY

- The General Assembly overrides Governor Hogan's veto of the Blueprint**—making it law and setting the stage for a decade of investment and positive transformation. Due to the governor's veto, the General Assembly passes "Blueprint 2.0" legislation to adjust the timeline for implementation.

SPRING

- A nominating committee is established—including MSEA President Cheryl Bost—to identify prospective members to the seven-member Accountability and Implementation Board.

2022

FEBRUARY

- The AIB must present an implementation plan that will set the standards for all local district Blueprint implementation plans by February 15, 2022. Most of the Blueprint's funding formulas and programs begin July 1, 2022.

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