

September 2017

Dear Mayor Catherine Pugh,

Thank you for efforts to ***Fix the Gap*** and developing the “Bridge to Kirwan” funding package to mitigate school budget shortfalls over the next three school years. The \$22.4 million that you added to the school budget this year is an unprecedented amount of funding from the City and it has helped to keep resources in the classroom. However, as you know, we need a new and improved state education funding formula so that our schools have high quality programming for core subject areas, the arts, advanced courses, special education, sports, mental health, counseling services, CTE programs, out-of-school time activities, and more.

We are asking you to make passage of an improved state education funding law a top priority for the session of 2018. BEC is also asking to work collaboratively with you on this effort. To that end, please join BEC, Dr. Santelises, city delegation members, school board commissioners, and city council members at our **Unite For Our Schools, to be scheduled in late October/early November.**

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NAME]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[SCHOOL/NEIGHBORHOOD]

September 2017

Dear Members of the Baltimore City Delegation,

Thank you for efforts to ***Fix the Gap*** and developing the “Bridge to Kirwan” funding package to mitigate school budget shortfalls over the next three school years. The additional state funding and spending relief measures have helped to keep resources in the classroom. However, as you know, we need a new and improved state education funding formula so that our schools have high quality programming for core subject areas, the arts, advanced courses, special education, sports, mental health, counseling services, CTE programs, out-of-school time activities, and more.

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Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NAME]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[SCHOOL/NEIGHBORHOOD]

September 2017

Dear Dr. Kirwan and Members of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education,

Thank you for serving on the commission to study and make recommendations to the state’s education funding formula. As you know, Baltimore City schools are experiencing a funding crisis. We love our schools but they lack sufficient resources and programs — such as art, music, after school programs, counselors, paraprofessionals, sports, and more. The state’s current “Thornton” formula intended to fulfill the state’s constitutional responsibility to fund our schools adequately. However, the state cut the formula in 2008, which has led to a \$290 million shortfall according to a report to your commission in December 2016.

We are asking you to make recommendations that will ensure adequate funding for our schools. We need per pupil funding for PreK, sufficient special education funding, and additional funding for high poverty schools. Please make every effort to understand our situation and recommend an adequate and equitable formula.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
[NAME]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[SCHOOL/NEIGHBORHOOD]



## Join Us! Be a Voice for Our Children and Schools!

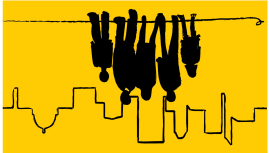
Take action with BEC and the **Campaign for Adequate Funding!** The time is NOW. Once a funding formula is passed by state law, it will affect our schools for the next 15-20 years. We need to unite and take action together! Please let us know if you can commit to taking these actions and provide your contact information so we keep you informed!

☐ Join BEC at the Kirwan Commission’s Public Hearing on October 12, 6pm at. Are you interested in speaking publicly? Yes/No

☐ BEC’s Unite For Our Schools, October \_\_\_\_, 2017, 6:30pm at \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Neighborhood: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_



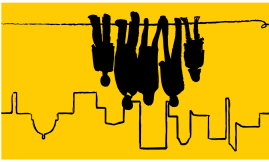
**The Baltimore Education Coalition's (BEC)** mission is to ensure that all children in Baltimore City receive an excellent education. BEC organizes and mobilizes the Baltimore community to advocate for adequate funding and effective education policies.

# Kirwan Commission

**Member Organizations**

Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY) \* American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) \* Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) \* Baltimore Movement for Rank and File Educators (BMORE) \* Cathedral Of the Incarnation \* Child First Authority (CFA) \* City Neighbors Foundation \* Comprehensive Housing Assistance (CHAI) \* Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance (DBFA) \* ELEV8 Baltimore, A Division of Humanim \* Higher Achievement Baltimore \* League of Women Voters (LWV) \* Maryland Alliance for Public Charter Schools \* Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) \* Organizing Youth in Education (OYE) \* PTA Council of Baltimore City \* Reservoir Hill Improvement Council (RHIC) \* Roland Park Elementary/Middle School \* School Social Workers in Maryland \* St. Luke's Episcopal Church \* Strong City Baltimore \* York Road Partnership (YRP)

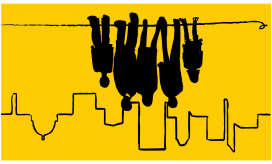
# Baltimore Education Coalition



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# Mayor Catherine Pugh

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# Baltimore City Delegation