

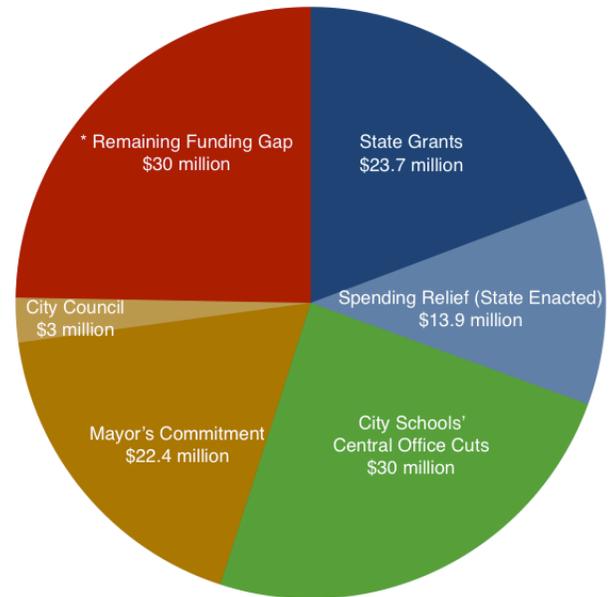
Campaign for Adequate Funding (2017-2018)

Adequate Funding For Our Schools Now!

Baltimore City Public Schools had a \$130 million structural deficit last year and Dr. Santelises was prepared to balance the budget by cutting 1,000 school system employees — which included many staff and programs at the school level. After the Baltimore Education Coalition (BEC) launched the #FixTheGap campaign and other citywide advocates took action, Mayor Pugh and Delegate McIntosh developed the “Bridge to Kirwan” plan — a 3-year \$180 million funding package for City Schools (~\$60 million/year). Coupled with significant cuts at central office and the use of City Schools’ reserve funding, most of the anticipated cuts to teachers and school staff have been mitigated. For now.

But City Schools still has a funding crisis and fixing the state education funding law must be a priority for Baltimore communities and state and city public officials. **BEC’s Campaign for Adequate Funding** seeks to do just that. Currently, the state’s Kirwan Commission is charged with making recommendations to the state’s education funding law by the end of the year. The Commission needs to hear about Baltimore’s needs from city parents, students, teachers, community members, and public officials. And the commission needs to develop a funding formula that will ensure classrooms have adequate teaching staff and resources for the core subject areas, special education, art, music, counseling, career and technology education, advanced learning, sports, after school programs, wrap-around services, and more. After the Commission’s report is completed by the end of 2017, it will be up to the state legislature to pass a new education funding law.

Additional City and State Funding Helps But Large Budget Gap Remains



Upcoming BEC Actions! Save the Dates!

A change to the current state education funding law is going to require an enormous effort given the myriad of priorities among state elected officials. BEC is reaching out to citywide advocates, communities, and groups to mount a robust campaign to win.

Back to School Nights — September 2017: BEC is working with parents, teachers, and community advocates in various schools to present the campaign to school communities citywide at Back to School Nights. Contact us at the email addresses below, if you want a presentation at your school.

Testify at the Kirwan Commission’s Public Hearing — October 12, 2017, 5:00pm @ Poly High School: BEC is working to recruit parents, teachers, students, community members, and others to testify before the state’s Kirwan Commission on October 12. Contact us to join our team!

Unite for Our Schools — November 29, 2017, Location TBA. Both city elected officials and Baltimore advocates need to act to win a new state education funding law. Stay tuned for the announcement about our Unite for Our Schools event and campaign launch!

Contact BEC to join the team!

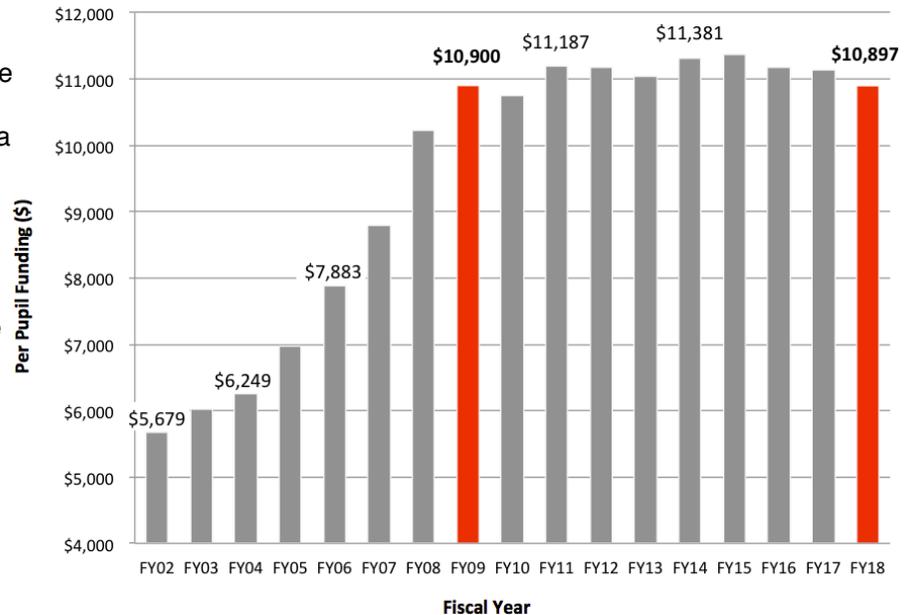
Sharicca Bolden, Co-Chair, sboldon@strongcitybaltimore.org
Frank Patinella, Co-Chair, patinella@aclu-md.org

Why Do We Need a New State Education Funding Law?

The Promise of “Adequate” Funding

- After the court’s ruling in the ACLU of Maryland’s *Bradford v. Maryland State Board of Education*, the state set up the “Thornton” Commission to recommend a new state education funding formula to meet the state’s constitutional obligation of providing an adequate education.
- Thornton’s recommendations, which intended to ensure adequate funding for all Maryland public schools, were adopted in the Bridge to Excellence Act of 2002 — aka the “Thornton” law.
- The new formula directed approximately \$270 million more to City Schools between 2002-2008.

State Aid to City Schools Rises, Then Flat for 9 Years



Broken Promise of Adequate Funding

- The State cut the “inflation factor” of the education funding formula in 2008 (Fiscal Year 2009), during the Great Recession.
- The inflation factor allows for per pupil state funding to increase along with the rising costs of doing business — annual increases in healthcare premiums, energy costs, transportation, food, etc.
- Without the inflation factor, per pupil funding for City Schools has remained flat for 9 years, while costs have risen.
- This is the primary reason for City Schools’ \$130 million budget deficit last year.
- Decreasing enrollment and various spending requirements also contribute to the budget challenges.

Adequate Funding = \$290 - \$358 Million

- Adequate funding is the amount of funding needed to ensure that schools have the staff and resources needed for students to meet state adopted standards.
- There are 2 measures of what adequate funding means based on state commissioned analyses and reports — one from the Thornton Commission and one from a consultant’s report in 2016.
- If the state’s current education funding law, “Thornton”, had not been cut, City Schools would have an additional \$290 million annually.
- According to a new 2016 report commissioned by the Maryland State Department of Education, City Schools needs approximately \$358 million to reach adequate funding levels.

BEC Members

Advocates for Children and Youth (ACY), American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland (ACLU), Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP), Baltimore Movement of Rank and File Educators (BMORE), Cathedral of the Incarnation, Child First Authority (CFA), City Neighbors Foundation (CNF), Comprehensive Housing Assistance (CHAI), Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance (DBFA), ELEV8 Baltimore, Higher Achievement Baltimore, League of Women Voters, Maryland Alliance for Public Charter Schools (MAPCS), 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 PTO, School Social Workers in Maryland (SSWIM), St. Lukes Episcopal Church, Strong City Baltimore, and York Road Partnership (YRP).