



**Brandon M. Scott**  
*President*  
Baltimore City Council

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**HB 1300/SB 1000**

February 17, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Speaker Jones  
The Honorable President Ferguson  
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee;  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee;  
House Appropriations Committee and  
House Ways and Means Committee

**FROM:** The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President of the Baltimore City Council  
and the Members of the Baltimore City Council

**RE:** HOUSE BILL 1300/SENATE BILL 1000 – Blueprint for Maryland’s  
Future – Implementation

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Our young people are our greatest asset. Unfortunately, we have not equitably or sufficiently invested in our youth. We have the opportunity to remedy these wrongs and ensure that all of our children, regardless of where in the state they live, have a first-class 21<sup>st</sup>-century education. The members of the Baltimore City Council understand that this is a once in a generation opportunity to get this right. As such, we collectively issue our strong support for the passage of HB1300/SB1000 “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Implementation.”

We all know that quality education plays a crucial role in a child’s future. We also know that adequate funding is crucial to the functionality of our schools. Across our state, and especially in our city of Baltimore, current funding for education is inequitable and insufficient, standing as a major disservice to our youth. These funding inequalities have harmed our children and the communities they live in. We laud the efforts of the Kirwan Commission to establish equitable educational funding across the state. The children of Baltimore – tomorrow’s future leaders – depend on this equitable funding.

We know that this is a major financial commitment. The Members of the Baltimore City Council stand ready for the financial commitment necessary to implement the Blueprint’s

plan. Already, the Council is doing our part by holding an informational hearing on Baltimore's fiscal readiness for Kirwan.<sup>1</sup>

Concurrently, we would be remiss if we did not underscore the historic inequity which has disproportionately impacted Baltimore's youth. We know that the State's own analysis has detailed that Maryland has underinvested in Baltimore City Schools by roughly \$300 million dollars per year over the last ten years. As you finalize the funding formula, please remember to incorporate this reality into your analysis.

Our children are watching and they are demanding that we act now to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Maryland's future depends on fair, equitable, and sufficient funding for quality education for all students.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB1300/SB1000.

Council President Scott	
Councilman Cohen	Councilman Burnett
Councilwoman McCray	Councilman Bullock
Councilman Dorsey	Councilman Reisinger
Councilman Henry	Councilman Costello
Councilman Schleifer	Councilman Stokes
Councilwoman Middleton	Councilwoman Sneed
Councilman Pinkett	Councilwoman Clarke

cc: The Honorable Antonio Hayes  
The Honorable Stephanie Smith

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<sup>1</sup> 19-0162r – Informational Hearing - Baltimore's Fiscal Readiness for Kirwan  
(<https://baltimore.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4092506&GUID=5C64CF24-C63D-4E1C-B2F5-749A1DAB96FF&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=kirwan>)(last visited 2/13/2020.)