

**Senate Budget and Tax, Education and Health and Environmental Affairs
Committees
House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees
February 17th, 2020**

Good afternoon, my name is Corey Gaber and I'm a 6th grade English teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools, and an Elementary School Vice President on the Baltimore Teachers Union Executive Board. I strongly support House Bill 1300/Senate Bill 1000, the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, proposing to transform Maryland's early childhood, primary, and secondary education system to the levels of high performing systems around the world.

First, the state of Maryland has NEVER provided sustained resources to black and brown youth in its public schools, despite court rulings demanding it, despite independent consultants quantifying what they're owed, despite equitable funding research being codified into law, and despite the clear mandate from the state constitution. The harmful impact of this historical and racist underfunding on the trajectory of millions of young lives is immeasurable, but the dollar amount is quantifiable. Baltimore City's students have received [3.2 billion dollars less than the state's definition of adequate funding demanded](#) over the past 2 decades. Prince George's county students received over 500 million dollars less than what they were owed in the year 2017 alone! In fact, regression analysis shows that the higher the % of black students in a district, the higher the funding adequacy gap.

While most acutely felt in Baltimore City and PG County, these inequities extend across the entire state. At least 20 out of 24 MD jurisdictions are underfunded, and our regressive funding formula means high poverty districts on average receive \$800 less per pupil than low poverty districts. So when you hear that we're already funding our schools adequately and equitably, remember that the courts, the consultants, and the constitution all declare BULLSHIT!

By finally repairing our regressive educational funding formula, the Blueprint legislation offers us a chance to say loudly and clearly, the sins of our past will not be the sins of our future!

-Corey Gaber, District 40