

January 10, 2025

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore,

The fiscal cliff of \$2.7 billion facing the State of Maryland is a very real challenge to the State's leaders. Addressing that challenge will shape our obligations and opportunities for years to come, and your balanced budget proposal will define your approach to educating all of Maryland's children.

In your Inaugural Address two years ago, you made two fundamental commitments to the state's citizens:

- . Leave no one behind; and
- . End childhood poverty.

Your education plan, "From Cradle to Career: Investing in Our Students and Building a World Class Education System," includes guarantees that education will always be a top priority, the Blueprint is fully funded and implemented, and state leaders will work closely with local leaders, educators, parents and community organizations to address our most pressing challenges.

The fiscal cliff is such a challenge. You and others have indicated that some "adjustments" to the Blueprint will be necessary and that increased taxes must face a "very high bar" for support. With all respect for the challenges ahead, we believe that the critical needs of our children should not be on the chopping block and should not be approached in a piecemeal fashion.

As strong supporters of your agenda, we are not asking that you perform miracles. You have made excellent choices in appointing our Superintendent, Dr. Cary Wright, and our State Board President, Josh Michael. We ask that the balanced budget proposal you present next week further reflect the solemn commitments you have made to all the State's citizens.

Sincerely yours,

Thornell Jones, President
World Class Grads Maryland