



STRONG
SCHOOLS
MARYLAND

Part 2: LETTER GUIDE

Good news, the letters are getting through! Just last month one of the commissioners commented on how he has already received “hundreds” of letters. Additionally, we have received reports from members around the state that they have received some responses. Be sure to add your own address and zip code under your signature in case someone wants to write you back (you can also add your e-mail address). **BE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE RETURN ADDRESS LINE ON THE ENVELOPE.**

Topic: Concentrated poverty impacts every jurisdiction and we need additional funding to support at-risk students. We expect a strong report **BASED ON THE 9 BUILDING BLOCKS** that lays out a bold vision for education in Maryland.

We expect the commission to produce a report based on the 9 building blocks that lays out a bold vision for a world class education system and explains the associated costs ←-This is the most important point.

The percentage of children eligible for free and reduced price meals has doubled since the last time education funding was studied. Concentrated poverty is therefore a primary education challenge in Maryland. 44% of Maryland public school students are living in poverty.

58% of school sites in Maryland are sites with concentrated poverty.

Every jurisdiction has at least 3 schools considered to have concentrated poverty

{Example statistic...use your jurisdiction} Kent county has 100% of their school sites in concentrated poverty

We need additional funding for at-risk students. That group includes students who are from low-income families, receive special education services, are English language learners, or are undocumented.

Every school serving a population of concentrated poverty must be a Community School with a full-time coordinator. This ensures that the school receives services from government, non-profit, and private partners.

In a study evaluating 20 community school initiatives across the country, ~75% of the programs achieved improvement in individual academic achievement

A cost-benefit analysis of community schools nationwide found that every dollar spent returns \$11.60 of social value

Who we are writing to this month:

Delegate Anne Kaiser (D-Montgomery County)

Chair - House Ways and Means Committee
(This committee will be critical to any education funding)

Senator Stephen Waugh (R-St. Mary's/Calvert)

Member-Education/Health/Envir. Committee

Dear Senator Madaleno,

I am part of a group (and there are thousands of us across the state) who meet monthly to learn about creating a world class education system in Maryland. As a member of the Kirwan Commission you have the unique job of representing the entire state.

We want to make sure the commission sets a bold vision - using the "9 Building Blocks" as a framework - for Maryland's education system. In addition, providing additional funding and resources to areas with concentrated poverty must also be a priority.

This month, I was stunned to learn that 44% of Maryland's students are living in poverty and 58% of schools (822/1412) have a FARMS rate of 40% or higher. Additionally, the number of students eligible for free or reduced price meals has doubled since we last examined school funding in Maryland.

In all, I ask you to be bold and use the 9 Building Blocks framework in your final report.

Thank you,
Joe Francaviglia
Joe@strongschoolsmaryland.org

123 main St
Annapolis MD 21401

Extra Credit Opportunity:

This month, let's have the commissioners hear our voice, literally.

Below are the public office numbers of the elected leaders of the Kirwan Commission. Challenge: try to call at least three members and talk to staff or leave a message.

State Senators



Senator Stephen Waugh
steve.waugh@senate.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3673



Senator Nancy King
nancy.king@senate.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3686



Senator Paul Pinsky
paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3155



Senator Rich Madaleno
richard.madaleno@senate.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3137

State Delegates



Delegate Anne Kaiser
anne.kaiser@house.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3036



Delegate Adrienne Jones
adrienne.jones@house.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3391



Delegate Alonzo Washington
alonzo.washington@house.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3652



Delegate Maggie McIntosh
maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us
(410) 841 - 3407