

Prince George's County Proud Commitment to Education

Facts and Background

“Prince George’s County fully supports the educational principles of the Kirwan Commission. Education is the civil rights issue of our time and we have a responsibility to our children to make sure that every one of them has access to a high-quality education in state-of-the-art buildings that are safe. Together, we will finally ensure education funding will be equitable, sustainable and responsible.” ~ Angela D. Alsobrooks

The Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

Prince George’s County supports the Kirwan Commission policy recommendations in the following areas:

- ✓ Early Childhood Education
- ✓ High-Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders
- ✓ College and Career Readiness Pathways
- ✓ More Resources for all Students
- ✓ Governance and Accountability



Our Proven Commitment to Education

When you review and compare what we have contributed and what we invest, Prince George’s County has met and exceeded our financial requirements when it comes to education.

Prince George’s County has exceeded the State’s Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement for nine straight years (FY2012-FY2020) by an estimated \$134 million. We have already initiated implementation of some of the Kirwan Commission recommendations, including:

- Increased investment in our Pre-K program supporting for 4,900 students, working towards 10,000 seats and universal access to early childhood education;
- Increased teacher salaries as we work to recruit and retain the highest quality educators; and
- Developed innovative solutions to accelerate school construction and maintenance.

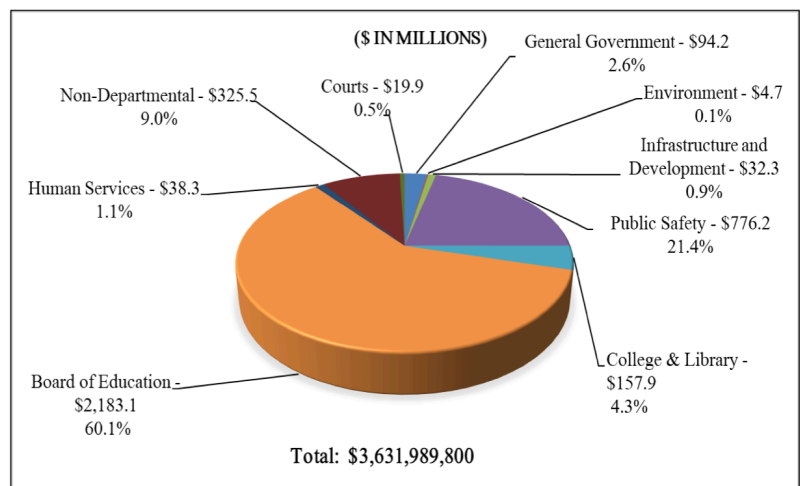
In addition we educate the highest number of students who speak English as a second language, and those with disabilities.

We also educate the second highest number of students who qualify for free and reduced meals (FARMs).

Continued Growth in Student Enrollment

Our school system experienced the highest rate of enrollment growth between fiscal years 2012 and 2017, according to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and we’re still growing.

Enrollment increased by 4,500 students from school year 2018/19 to 2019/20; growing our system to 136,500 students overall.



Our operating budget allocates .60 cents for every dollar for education, including Outside Sources. Of County dollars, over 0.37 cents of every dollar goes to education. (see chart above)

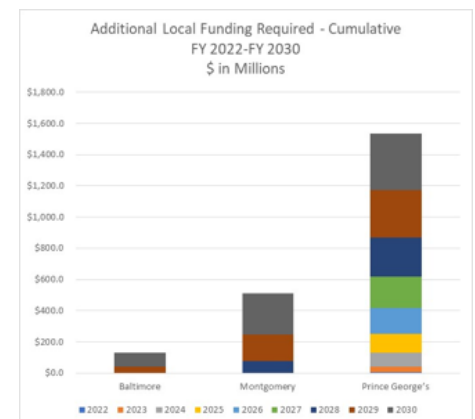
The Proposed Kirwan Funding Formula

If we were to pass Kirwan as is, Prince George's County would have to increase our education spending by over \$500 million over the next ten years, for a total of \$1.5 billion paid out over that ten-year period.

- The Kirwan Commission's proposed funding formula will unintentionally widen the State's long-standing structural inequity gap in State Education Aid by disproportionately requiring jurisdictions with higher concentrations of African American and Hispanic/Latino students with lower wealth per student to contribute substantially more local funding than wealthier jurisdictions.
- When you look at the first four years of the proposed funding formula, 95% of the local share is paid by Prince George's County and Baltimore City.
- Raising taxes isn't an option, as Prince Georgians already pay the highest income tax rate (3.2%) in the State and the second highest property tax rate (\$1.374).
- Prince George's County has consistently maintained a high Local Education Effort, and closely parallels the Local Education Effort of Baltimore County and Montgomery County (see chart below).

Jurisdiction	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average
Baltimore	1.32%	1.38%	1.39%	1.41%	1.39%	1.42%	1.44%	1.39%
Montgomery	1.40%	1.42%	1.39%	1.42%	1.45%	1.43%	1.43%	1.42%
Prince George's	1.31%	1.35%	1.38%	1.45%	1.46%	1.46%	1.44%	1.41%
Statewide	1.20%	1.25%	1.27%	1.29%	1.29%	1.29%	1.30%	1.27%

Despite similar Local Education Effort and significantly lower wealth per pupil than Baltimore County and Montgomery County, Prince George's County will have to contribute significantly more local funds between FY 2022 and FY 2030 – both annually and cumulatively.



Our Goals Moving Forward

It's very reassuring that we are united in the belief that education funding is our top priority for our children, educators, and the quality of our educational facilities.

It is our continued commitment to work in collaboration with our Delegation and lawmakers from across the State in good faith to support the passage of Kirwan in an equitable, sustainable and responsible manner. We will provide additional information necessary to aid in the development of a funding formula that's fair for all. We ask for your partnership in this very important work.

“We aren't just educating Prince George's children, these are also Maryland's children”