



**MOST NETWORK**  
Leaders in Youth Development

## 2022 Legislative Agenda

### II. Effective Implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future represents the most significant investment in Maryland's schools in over a generation. Billions will pour into classrooms across the state between now and 2030, changing the future trajectories of millions of students for the better. As we approach the first anniversary of the bill's passage, however, it is clear that some of the technical aspects of the law have inadvertently failed to live up to the Kirwan commission's vision for youth development. We express optimism at the prospect of improving the outcomes achieved in the Blueprint with additional legislation in the coming legislative session: the so-called 'Blueprint 3.0.' With additional modifications to the Blueprint framework, the state can rectify funding misallocations that have been identified by grass-roots youth development organizations since the original bill's passage last year.

First, the general assembly should provide adequate resources to the Accountability and Implementation Board. The board, which currently lacks any state funding, is the only dedicated regulatory body identified in the Blueprint. Successful implementation of the Blueprint is thus predicated on the ability of the board to carry out its legal responsibilities by providing meaningful oversight functions. Second, Annapolis should support state and local education agencies in providing technical assistance and training for community schools, including administrative dollars for Concentration of Poverty grants for school districts with fewer than 40 schools.

Likewise, other aspects of the Concentration of Poverty grant should be amended to provide more equitable and sustainable lines of funding to community schools. Under the current funding formula, community schools experiencing the highest levels of poverty are poised to receive less funding than they had under pre-existing grant structures. In addition, the current formula creates vast disparities in funding appropriations between schools with only minor differences poverty levels. To address these shortcomings, we advocate for a larger base level of funding, coupled with a smaller range of variable funding increases based on the number of students receiving free and reduced meals. Such measures are necessary to ensure that the technical aspects of the bill fulfill the spirit of the law.