

STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND

2022

POST SESSION REPORT



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A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome!

This winter, the Maryland General Assembly returned to Annapolis for a hybrid legislative session. Despite our collective veto override efforts and the 2021 enactment of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future law, Governor Hogan continued to obstruct implementation at nearly every available opportunity, threatening the equitable system of World Class Schools we are all working to create.

The delays caused by these obstructions hit at the core accountability and governance provisions of the law and shortchanged implementation—a remarkable parallel to the condition of too many of our schools.

In this context, Strong Schools Maryland carried three legislative priorities throughout the legislative session:

- Ensure full funding of the Blueprint
- Hold state and local actors accountable for their roles in transparent, faithful implementation
- Create the conditions for educational equity in outcomes

We are happy to report full Blueprint funding in the coming fiscal year, an additional \$800 million for the Blueprint Fund, appropriately adjusted implementation timelines, and much more in this Session wrap up, though I would be remiss if I did not remind you now that our work is far from over.

Though the Blueprint is now law, its implementation at the state and local levels will be the true tests to determine its fate. Maryland is attempting massive transformational change for its public schools at a time when the institution of public education is under attack in the United States.

Beyond the Blueprint, the landscape of public education is churning. In the legislative and local delegation insights that follow, there is a matrix of issues, constituencies, and opportunities that will accompany us on this generation-long journey to transform our public education system into a launching pad as our graduates venture forth into ever more unknowns.

We must engage with systems that are vital to true democracy, and the Blueprint provides a clear path for us to chart together as we engage public education. Once you've turned the last page of this report, join us in co-creating World Class Schools in all our communities.

For the future,

SHAMOYIA GARDINER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND

MAJOR WINS

HB 1450

"THE BLUEPRINT 3.0"

YEA 117 • NAY 16 • ABSTAIN 1 • ABSENT 7 (HOUSE)
YEA 44 • NAY 3 (SENATE)

When the Maryland General Assembly overrode Governor Hogan's unnecessary 2020 veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the body quickly followed up by passing House Bill 1372 (Blueprint 2.0) which updated implementation timelines in response to the veto and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic's impact on school communities. We were appreciative of the legislature's commitment to the Blueprint vision—that of a world-class system of public schools for our state's students—and see the passage of House Bill 1450 (Blueprint 3.0, if you will) as a continued demonstration of that commitment.

HB 1450:

- Gives the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) sufficient time to evaluate the status of implementation, and connect with those responsible for implementation of the Blueprint while fostering meaningful engagement with the public to develop implementation plans,
- Allows the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) sufficient time to engage school districts, the AIB, and the public as planning continues throughout the 2022 calendar year, and
- Modifies revenue streams for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future special fund



MAJOR WINS

STRONG SCHOOLS MARYLAND



SB 290

"FY '23 STATE BUDGET"

YEA 119 • NAY 12 • ABSTAIN 3 • ABSENT 7 (HOUSE)
YEA 46 • NAY 0 • ABSENT 1 (SENATE)

The Fiscal Year 2023 Budget got off to a rocky start, with Governor Larry Hogan refusing to provide a supplemental budget that fully-funds the Blueprint. Notably, the governor's original budget excluded funding for the Maryland districts – Baltimore City and Prince George's County – that educate **half of all Black students** in Maryland, and **nearly a third of all Hispanic and Latino students** in the state).

However, thanks to the joint advocacy of Strong Schools Maryland's statewide network of Teams of Ten and partners in the Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the governor's capricious and irresponsible underfunding of the Blueprint was unequivocally defeated.

SB 290:

- Includes Education Effort Adjustment funding required by the Blueprint, which enhances the progressive funding formula by reducing the local share of major education aid for jurisdictions with the greatest need.
 - This index quantifies and measures a local government's ability to fund education by comparing each local share to the average of all the local shares across the state.
 - The Education Effort *Adjustment* applies if the index shows the local effort is above the statewide average, and provides funding relief to ten of Maryland's 24 counties, namely: Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil, Garrett, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Talbot, and Wicomico.
- Ensures full-funding of the Accountability & Implementation Board (AIB), and
- Infuses the Blueprint fund with an additional \$800M in FY '23, and \$100M each FY thereafter.

BUILDING ON

THE BLUEPRINT

Though the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is law, there are ongoing unsettled issues in education that will impact its effective implementation. Strong Schools Maryland continues to champion legislation that supports the five pillars of the Blueprint and creates the conditions for World Class Schools in Maryland.

OTHER WINS

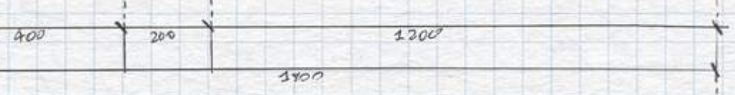
- **HB850** prevents discrimination in pre-kindergarten programs, and on county boards of education passed, and is awaiting Governor Hogan's signature.
- **HB89 (and SB480)** provide child care stabilization grants to provide financial support to child care providers that have faced financial hardship or suffered an operational burden during the COVID-19 pandemic passed, and was signed into law by Governor Hogan.

DEFENDING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

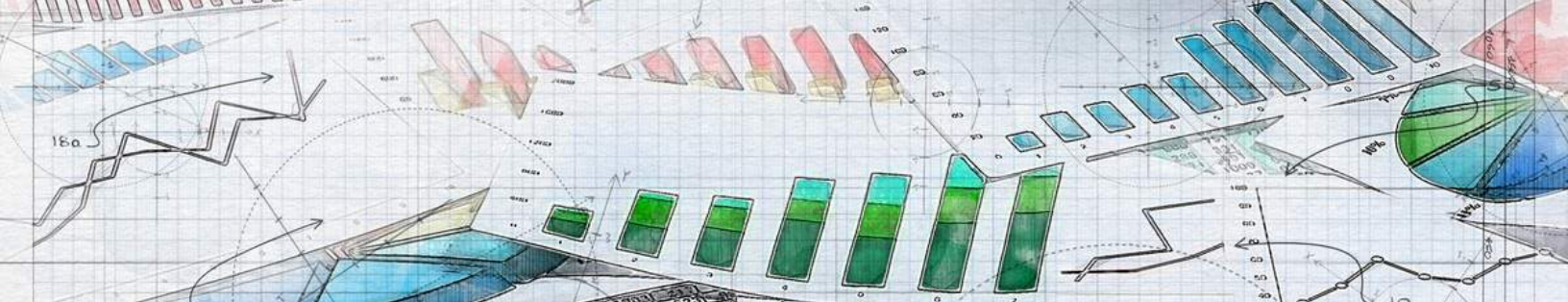
- **HB618** would have impacted family privacy and safety by making aggressive (and often unhealthy or outright dangerous) communications between parents and educators compulsory.
- **HB757** would have codified and required discrimination against transgender and gender nonconforming students and members of the school community
- **HB758** would have created additional, undue burdens on teachers and families by requiring the posting and unilateral parental-review of lesson plans on school websites.
- **HB1145** would have created a new criminal charge *and* \$2500 fine for parents of students with social-emotional or behavioral differences in their learning.
- **SB583** would have created a website to incentivize anonymous reporting of so-called "classroom disruptions."



DELEGATION REPORTS BY COUNTY



from pp
sketch
mudflat



COUNTY DELEGATION REPORTS OVERVIEW

Delegates and Senators in the Maryland General Assembly convene by Delegation during the Legislative Session. Unlike standing and special committees which have representation statewide, Delegations are geographic by county and/or region. Larger counties meet independently, while smaller counties are grouped by geographic region. The distinct regions and their membership are determined by MGA leadership.

Here, we've grouped Delegations by the frequency of their meetings over the course of the 2022 General Assembly. A comprehensive report of the Delegations' meetings can be found by clicking on the button below.

DELEGATIONS MEETING FOUR OR MORE TIMES:

- ***ANNE ARUNDEL***
- ***BALTIMORE COUNTY***
- ***BALTIMORE CITY***
- ***FREDERICK***
- ***HARFORD***
- ***HOWARD***
- ***MONTGOMERY***
- ***PRINCE GEORGE'S***
- ***EASTERN SHORE***

DELEGATIONS MEETING THREE OR FEWER TIMES:

- ***CARROLL***
- ***CECIL***
- ***WESTERN MARYLAND***
- ***SOUTHERN MARYLAND***

[READ THE COUNTY REPORTS](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

THE WORK OF ENSURING WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS CONTINUES

While we were able to secure truly transformative victories for Maryland students, families, educators, and small businesses, as well as defend against the toxicity of deliberately harmful bills, there is still work to be done. Here are some bills from the 2022 session which we will continue to advocate for to create equitable, supportive schools for all Marylanders:

- **SB318/HB652(dead)**, would have required local boards of education to provide career preparation programs parity with postsecondary programs to support equitable access to high quality college and career opportunities.
- **HB457(dead)**, would have closed a financial loophole large corporations exploit; would provide funding support for a variety of initiatives, including the Blueprint.
- **HB665/SB576(dead)**, would have required the School Construction Commission to set minimal air quality standards for schools.
- **HB783/SB575(dead)**, would have required the state health department to establish mold assessment and remediation standards for public schools.
- **HB797(dead)**, would have fully enfranchised student members of county boards of education and ensured all 24 school systems have at least one student serving on its board.
- **HB919/SB805(dead)**, would have expanded eligibility for the Child Tax Credit, which limits eligibility to families with children who have disabilities, to include those with children under 6 who do not have a disability.
- **HB933(dead)**, would have expanded eligibility for the Child Care Scholarship Program.
- **HB495/SB519(dead)**, would have protected student voice by preventing schools from punishing students who attend/organize peaceful student-led demonstrations.
- **HB23(dead)**, would have required state department of education to make available and disaggregate by race and disability status, punitive student discipline data. This is the fourth session this bill has failed; one of the recommendations of the Commission on the School to Prison Pipeline & Restorative Practices.



GET INVOLVED

HELP US CREATE A FUTURE WHERE EVERY MARYLAND FAMILY REALIZES THE DREAM OF - AND OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED BY - WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS!

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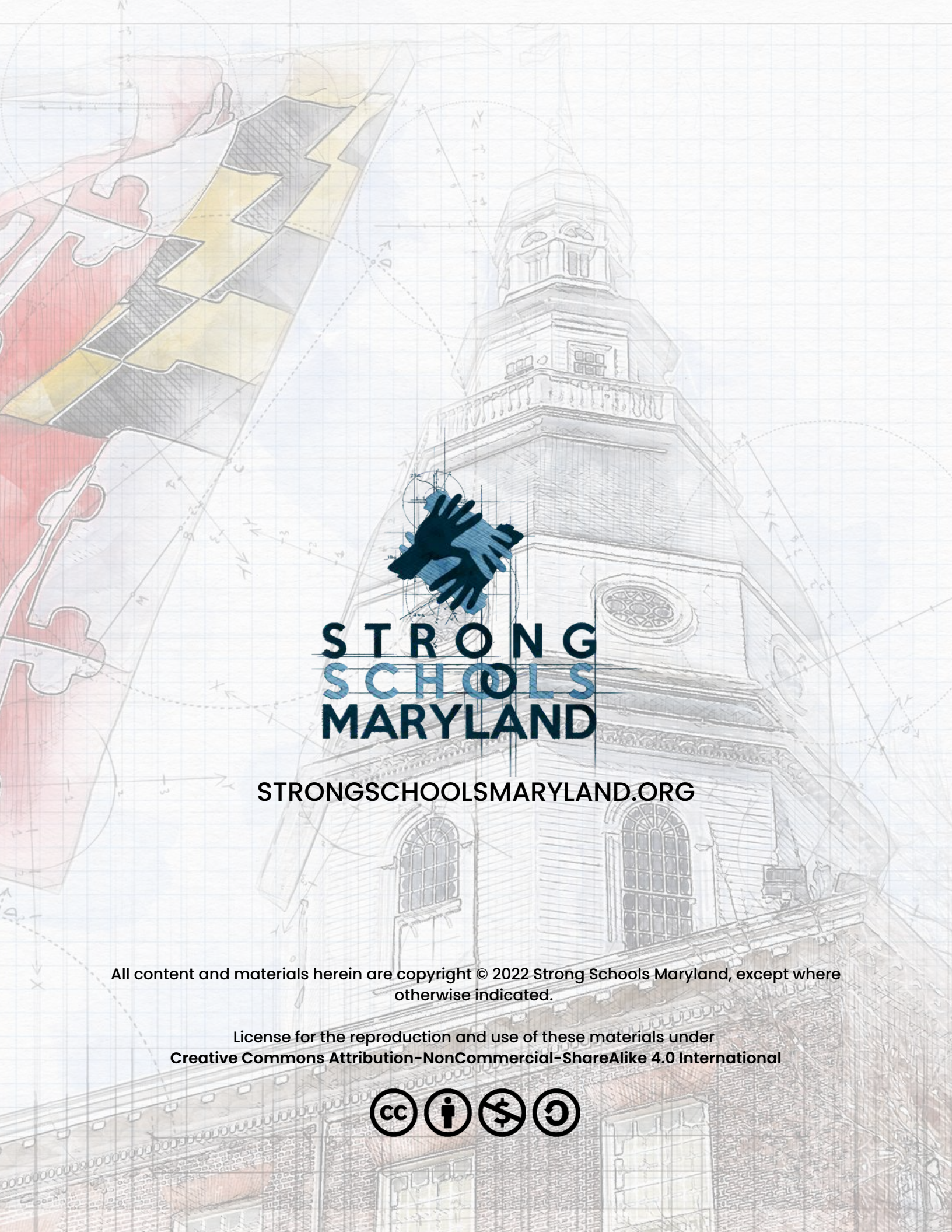
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