



Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

William E. Kirwan
Chairman

October 25, 2019

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan Jr
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

As you know, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, established by you and the General Assembly in 2016, is nearing the end of its work. Our charge was to make policy and funding recommendations so that Maryland students would receive an education competitive with that provided to students in the world's top-performing school systems. I deeply appreciate the fact that you, the Senate President, and the House Speaker jointly appointed me to chair the Commission and that you gave the Commission such a bold charge.

In carrying out this charge, the Commission first had to learn where Maryland schools stand in relation to the best-performing systems. What we learned is deeply troubling to Commission members. While we do have some very good schools and outstanding teachers in the State, we do not have nearly enough of either. At present, fewer than 40% of high school graduates are deemed college and career ready. Moreover, the State has significant school funding equity issues and large achievement gaps based on race and income. The Commission has produced a comprehensive report that addresses these issues and provides a system of accountability that would ensure that the increased investment called for by the Commission would make Maryland schools world class.

Based on reports in the media, it appears that you have some concerns about the Commission's policy recommendations and the associated costs. Before we complete our work, the Commission would benefit greatly by hearing directly from you. We hope that such a session might enable us to find common ground on how we can ensure that all Maryland students have access to a high quality education and that the state is producing the quality of workforce that will enable it to sustain a vibrant and global competitive economy.

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The Commission is scheduled to meet October 30 and November 12, with a meeting on November 21 to complete its final policy recommendations, funding formulas, and accountability structure. I invite you to attend and offer your thoughts about the Commission's work at any of these meetings. We will adjust our agenda according to your schedule.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Kirwan".

William E. Kirwan
Chairman, Commission on Innovation
and Excellence in Education

cc: President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Speaker Adrienne A. Jones