

**TOPIC:** Update: Kirwan Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education

**COMMITTEE:** Education Policy and Student Life

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018

**SUMMARY:** The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education was appointed in June 2016. Chancellor Emeritus William E. “Brit” Kirwan was appointed to chair the Commission with the dual charge of:

- (1) reviewing the current education financing formula (Bridge To Excellence in Public Schools Act, Thornton Commission) and
- (2) making policy recommendations to ensure that Maryland public schools would perform comparably to the best schools in the world.

The Commission was originally expected to make recommendations by December 31, 2017, but because of the complexity of the task, they requested an extension to the second quarter of 2018. The Commission will make policy recommendations in January 2018 and will do an intensive cost analysis of the recommendations over the next few months. Based on its review and assessment, the Commission will make recommendations for legislative and policy initiatives to increase the availability of innovative educational opportunities and make adequate and equitable the funding for State public education.

With many implications for students’ preparation for higher education and teacher preparation and training, higher education is represented on the Commission by Chancellor Robert Caret, with assistance from Dr. Nancy Shapiro (Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Outreach). They will provide the Committee with a status report on the Kirwan Commission.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** This is an information item.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** This is an information item.

**CHANCELLOR’S RECOMMENDATION:** This is an information item.

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COMMITTEE ACTION: Information Only

DATE: January 16, 2018

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BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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# Maryland Education Commission Main Policy Areas

# 9 Building Blocks for a World-Class Education System

Early Childhood  
Education



**1:** Provide strong supports for children and their families before students arrive at school

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Ample Supply of  
High Quality and  
Diverse Teachers  
and School Leaders



**5:** Assure an abundant supply of highly qualified teachers



**6:** Redesign schools to be places in which teachers will be treated as professionals, with incentives and support to continuously improve their professional practice and the performance of their students



**8:** Create a leadership development system that develops leaders at all levels to manage such systems effectively

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College and  
Career Readiness  
Pathways



**3:** Develop world-class, highly coherent instructional systems



**4:** Create clear gateways for students through the system, set to global standards, with no dead ends



**7:** Create an effective system of career and technical education and training

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More Resources for  
At-risk Students



**2:** Provide more resources for at-risk students than for others

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Governance and  
Accountability



**9:** Institute a governance system that has the authority and legitimacy to develop coherent, powerful policies and is capable of implementing them at scale