



About the Maryland Education Coalition?

**Advocates for
civil rights, health, public
education & safety
for all students**

Brought to you by



Rick Tyler, Jr., Chair



Literacy: A Civil Right



➤ [Let Them See Clearly](#)

➤ [Maryland Coalition for Community Schools](#)

➤ Sharon Rubinstein (Individual)

(Click on logos for organization websites)

About the Maryland Education Coalition?

The Maryland Education Coalition (MEC) has been in existence for over 40 years and is made up of 15 statewide organizations & individuals, who represent parents, civil rights, & special population groups including lower income, minorities, special needs, limited English, and Gifted & Talented.

We advocate for adequate, equitable funding and systematic accountability for the estimated 900,000 public school students in Maryland's public schools regardless of their academic, cultural, economic, geographic, racial or other demographic status.

We believe a public education allows all students access to a quality education so each may graduate college or career-ready is a constitutional right based on Article VIII of the Maryland Constitution. We also believe it is a civil right* based on several federal and state laws or regulations

***Some Related Federal Civil Rights Laws**

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| • Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 | • Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 |
| • Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 | • Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 |

MEC directly or indirectly played a role in the passage of over 60 bills during the 2019 Maryland General Assembly session, via written or oral testimony & advocacy with legislators or other stakeholders.

MEC or members within, are also stakeholder representatives for other statewide groups including, but not restricted to:

- Adequacy of Funding for Education
- Coalition for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future,
(focuses issues related to the Kirwan Commission)
- Family Engagement Council
- Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel
- Gifted & Talented Education Advisory Council
- Graduation Task Force
- Kirwan Commission
- Maryland Coalition for Equity
- Maryland Commission on the School-to-Prison Pipeline and Restorative Practices
- Special Education State Advisory Committee
- Task Force on Student Discipline Regulations

Among other major successes or reports involving the Maryland Education Coalition & partners include:

- Study of Adequacy of Funding for Education in the State Of Maryland in 2016
- The Protect Our Schools Act of 2017
- The Fix the Fund Act of 2018 adding \$500 plus to the Education Trust Fund
- The Blueprint for Maryland's Future of 2019, which adds \$1 billion to our schools over three years
- New Policies for community schools, reading, struggling learners, restorative practices, physical/mental health, school climate, teacher support/salary and more.

MEC ask all to Remember

Federal law or regulations **supersedes** state law or regulations, which **supersedes** local laws, board policies or local school system administrative procedures.

So, what happens at the student, classroom or school level is generally affected by local school system policies or procedures, which is affected by state policies or regulations, which are affected by federal policies or regulations, unless the hierarchy has taken no action.

Other Resources that can be used as reference:

- Learn the Maryland General Assembly [Legislative Process](#)
- Access the [Code of Maryland Regulations \(COMAR\)](#)
- Access Maryland [Local School System websites](#)