



MARYLAND ALLIANCE OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

January/February 2020

Message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year!

As we start the new year, we are looking forward to sharing all the amazing things our schools are doing on a more frequent basis. As you all know, we have previously had a quarterly newsletter, but are hoping to bring you a bi-monthly newsletter this year! We have seen so much momentum around our CSP contract, community support, and high quality programming from our schools that we can't wait to share.

We are excited to announce that our marketing campaign kicked off with Wide Angle Youth Media and materials should be out soon featuring some of our parents, educators, students, and alumni! Also, we are more than ecstatic to welcome our newest education policy fellow from Leadership for Educational Equity, Sadie Baker! Sadie is an educator at Midtown Academy and is supporting our advocacy work. Welcome, Sadie!

We are always looking to build our community of support and connect with as many of you as possible. Please [schedule time with me](#) if you have any opportunities, questions, concerns, comments, or would like to have a school visit! You can also reach me by phone (410.919.9678 ext1) or [email](#).

Best,
McKenzie

Consider Donating to MAPCS!

Make a contribution to MAPCS! Our work is not possible without you!

We hope you will donate to MAPCS this year. Our work advocating and fighting for effective, innovative, and exciting learning opportunities for all Maryland families cannot happen without generous donations from people like you! THANK YOU!



[Click here to donate!](#)

*All donations to MAPCS are fully tax deductible.

Are you interested in...

Working at a Baltimore City public charter school?

- We are having a Baltimore City public charter school hiring fair the first week of March. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) or contact [Phylicia](#) to get the details and register. More information coming soon!

Placing your child in a Maryland public charter school?

- Lotteries are soon approaching for all of our districts! If you would like to try to place your child in a charter for the upcoming school year, please visit [our website](#) to learn more.

Maryland Public Charter Schools in the News

Here are just a few links from recent articles positively featuring Maryland public charter schools! We are so proud of the work happening in our schools!

- [Heart of the School Celebrates with Holiday Party - Congrats!](#)(The Daily Record, 1/24/20)
- [Poll Find Baltimore City Charter Schools Have Support](#) (Fox45, 1/15/20)
- [Baltimore City Charter and Operator Led Renewals](#) (Baltimore Sun, 1/14/20)
- [Green Street Academy's Hydroponic Garden to Support Restaurant](#) (Baltimore Magazine, 1/9/20)
- [Baltimore Public Charter School Recognized for French Immersion Program](#) (WBAL, 12/12/19)
- ['Mission Tiger', Ed Reed Donate \\$200K To Revitalize Sports Facilities At Kipp Ujima Village Academy](#) (CBSLocal, 12/1/19)
- [Maryland Public Charter Schools Receive New Educational Grants](#) (WBAL, 11/26/19)

Charter School Facts & History

Charter schools are publicly funded, privately managed and semi-autonomous schools of choice. The first charter school law was passed in 1991 in Minnesota, and the first charter school was established there in 1992. By 1995 an additional 18 states had passed charter school legislation. The charter school movement then experienced tremendous growth.

The Maryland State Legislature approved Maryland's charter school law in 2003.

National Alliance of Public Charter Schools Updates!

It is National School Choice Week!

National School Choice Week 2020 will be held from January 26 – February 1, 2020. Maryland will celebrate with a record-breaking 773 events and activities across the state. Governor Larry Hogan issued an official proclamation recognizing Maryland School Choice Week 2020. Learn more about NSCW [here](#).

Just Released: 2020 Voices from the Classroom Survey

Educators for Excellence released the 2020 edition of Voices from the Classroom: A Survey of America's Educators. Charter school teachers are 22 percentage points more likely to say they feel "very valued" and are also more likely to say they've received support and training in key areas. Read more from this survey [here](#).

AFC's Annual Education Survey Results Released

The American Federation for Children's annual education survey finds that 58 percent of all voters and 56 percent of Democratic primary voters are less likely to support a candidate who wants to eliminate federal funding for charter schools. Read more in the survey [here](#).

Maryland Ranks 45th in Charter School Law

The National Alliance of Public Charter schools just released their latest state charter law rankings report. For more than a decade, their charter law rankings report has analyzed how well each state aligns its charter school law to their "gold standard" model law. The 2020 charter school law rankings are the first rankings to reflect the impact of the 2018 election cycle. States like California and Illinois, where previous governors supported charter-friendly policies, elected officials who allowed charter opponents to make headway on anti-charter-policies. Those states saw a drop in their rankings. At the same time, advocates made improvements in funding and facilities policies in many states, with Idaho and Tennessee making the biggest jumps. Maryland still ranks last. See our scores [here](#).

School-To-School Webinar Offering

January 30, 2020 | 10:00am

Open to all Leadership & Educators including Charter, District and Private Schools who are mission driven

As part of school to school sharing, EXCEL Academy Public Charter School has engaged two established researchers/ academicians to help EXCEL operationalize its four pillars in order to identify solid outcomes and develop sound evaluation practices. There is evidence that establishing sound mission based performance measures is a shortcoming of charter schools across the nation. This is a promising practice to share with other schools.

[Register Now](#)

New MAPCS Offerings for Charter School Operators



[Share your Strengths. Fill a Need.](#)

Attention Public Charter Schools! You can apply to create a peer to peer learning session with both your public charter school and traditional school colleagues. Applications for the first round of stipends are now being accepted.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)

[Charter School Budgeting Webinar](#)

[Available On-Demand](#)

Learn how to create an effective and strategic budgeting process, what to focus on, and what key indicators to monitor on both a short- and long-term basis.

The goal is to help school leaders prepare for the upcoming budget development for next year. The session will be most useful to newer operators, newer staff or board members within the charter school community, but even school veterans will likely glean insights

[You're on a Public Charter School Board- Now What?](#)

March 5, 2020 | 12pm

This webinar will provide a framework and strategies for governing effectively, and help board members understand the responsibilities, transparency and stewardship required to operate public schools.

Whether you're brand new, or need a refresher, we'll help board members understand how to govern with a focus on student outcomes, equity, and accountability to all stakeholders.

that can be put into practice.

[On Demand Webinar](#)

[Register Now](#)

Offerings for Charter School Founding Groups



[Intro to Maryland Charter Schools Webinar](#)

February 6, 2019 | 10am-11am

[Register Now](#)

The first step in the Charter Starter workshop series. This hour-long webinar will answer basic questions about the Maryland Charter School law, provide an overview of the movement, explain how charter schools are authorized in Maryland, provide a roadmap for creating a charter school, and provide an update the availability of the MSDE Charter School Grant.

[Charter Starter Workshop](#)

Our next Charter Starter Workshop Series will take place in Spring 2020. [Sign up](#) to receive notification of open enrollment.

The second step in the Charter Starter workshop series. This FREE intensive three (3) hour training is designed to give school developers foundational knowledge about chartering in Maryland.

[Charter Design Workshop](#)

Our next Charter School Design Workshop Series will take place in Spring 2020. [Sign up](#) to receive notification of open enrollment.

The Charter School Design Workshop Series are comprised of two evening workshops, plus an all-day workshop, providing over 12 hours of content rich material for charter starters. This is the last workshop in the series.

In case you missed it! - Kirwan

The Kirwan Commission, The Commission on the Excellence in Education, wrapped up their work in December 2019. They voted 19 to 3 in favor of their finished recommendations that focused on:

- Investing in High-quality Early Childhood Education and Care
- Elevating Teachers and School Leaders
- Creating a World-class Instructional System
- Providing More Support to Students Who Need It the Most
- Ensuring Excellence for All with Accountability

On Dec. 3, 2019, the [return on investment \(ROI\) report](#) commissioned by Strong Schools Maryland was released. It noted that Maryland's economy will benefit from the profits and growth that would occur as a result of expanded opportunities mentioned above. It even went as far to say that the recommendations would pay for themselves, over \$4 billion, by 2034.

The Bridge to Kirwan, bill passed last year, gave some money and guidance on spending to school with populations experiencing a high concentration of poverty. That bill is planned to continue into the 2020-2021 school year while the public waits to hear the newest Kirwan bill. As of the sending of this newsletter, the 2020 General Assembly has not dropped any bills in regards to Kirwan implementation. Please stay tuned for more updates!

Let's Connect!

