

June 3, 2005

Mr. Edward L. Root
President
Maryland State Board of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD. 21201

Dear Mr. Root:

I am writing to convey our deep appreciation for your efforts to secure equal per pupil funding for Maryland's charter school students. As you know, one of our main objectives here at The Center for Education Reform is to ensure that all public school students are treated equitably and have quality opportunities. This important ruling will go a long way to ensuring that outcome.

While we applaud the progress, there is still much to be done. As you know, this ruling does not change the current vagueness of the law; nor does it change how districts behave necessarily. The charter school policy established by some of the local districts is completely at odds with the intent of the law. Without a legislative mandate to require - and guarantee - full, equitable per pupil funding, it will need to be revisited every year. The state board has shown its desire to strengthen this law, and because we have successfully influenced the adoption of at least 30 other laws, we would like to work with you on that effort.

My office will follow up with yours for a good time to meet over the next few weeks. In the meantime, thank you for your commitment to ensuring charter schools in Maryland succeed. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cc: Dunbar Brooks
Lelia Allen
Jo Ann Bell
J. Henry Butta
Beverly Cooper
Calvin Disney
Clarence Hawkins
Karabelle Pizzigati
Maria Torres-Queral
David Tufaro
Brian Williamson
Nancy Grasmick

Jeanne Allen
President