

**A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD: A Concrete Plan for Economic, Social, and Political Equity for Black Marylanders**

### **3. Education**

- Maryland's school facilities offer dramatically variable physical infrastructure, including undrinkable water, classrooms without climate control, and mold. These conditions disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities, particularly in low-income areas. I am committed to using the debt capacity of the state to ensure no child attends school in a substandard facility.
- Paths to higher education present significant cost barriers, particularly for first generation students, and create lingering financial burdens for those who must take on debt in order to attend college. As with barriers to quality primary education, these are shouldered disproportionately by Black and Brown communities. I am committed to providing student debt forgiveness for graduates of public institutions who live, work, and pay taxes in Maryland for at least 5 years after graduation in order to truly address the student debt crisis, and make Maryland a go-to state for young persons.
- I am committed to proactively implementing funding streams for Maryland's Historically Black Colleges and Universities that ensure we do not recreate the resource inequities that the recent lawsuit sought to address.
- Creating a statewide intergenerational mentorship program that creates over 1 million mentoring hours within the first four years of its implementation, and provides a tax incentive for retirees who participate. This program will serve the dual purpose of 1) ameliorating social isolation and easing the tax burden on retirees, while 2) utilizing the lifetime of experience our seniors possess in order to help young persons navigate educational, professional, and other life challenges.
- The Franchot Administration will enhance the involvement of MWBE companies as equity participants and major role players in the development of infrastructure like schools throughout the state.

