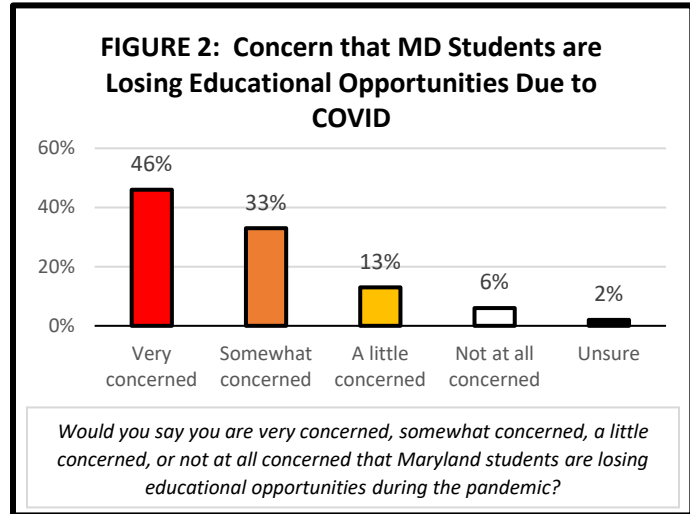
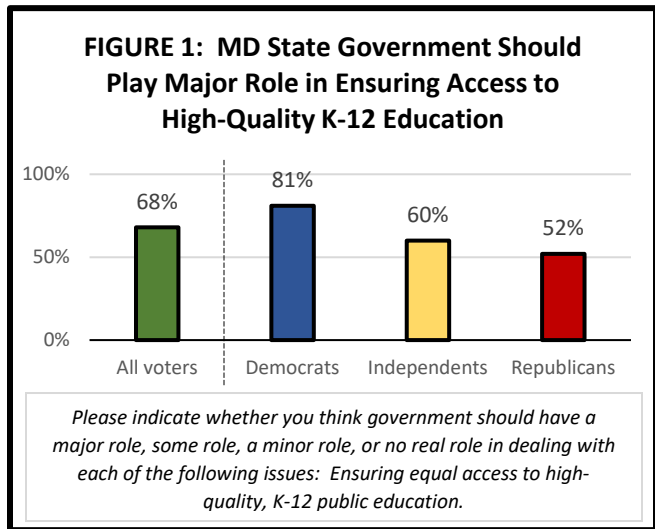




DATE: March 8, 2021
 TO: Interested parties
 FROM: Ben Lazarus, TargetSmart
 RE: New Maryland poll shows high concern regarding

Alongside responding to the coronavirus pandemic and election administration, **ensuring equal access to high-quality, K-12 public education** emerges as one of most consensus issues on which Maryland voters believe government should have a major role (72 percent, 73 percent, and 68 percent major role respectively), according to the results of our recent statewide poll in Maryland¹. Notably, as shown in **Figure 1**, majorities of voters across the partisan divide believe government should have a major role in ensuring equal access to high-quality public education.

As the members of the Maryland General Assembly use this legislative session to address the impact of COVID-19 on public schools and Maryland’s children, they may be interested to know our poll finds that a plurality of voters across the state say they are *very concerned* that Maryland students are losing educational opportunities during the pandemic (see **Figure 2**), and roughly 8-in-10 Marylanders are at least somewhat concerned about student achievement during these tough times (79 percent). The majority of voters with kids living at home say they are very concerned (55 percent) and even 41 percent of voters without kids at home also say they are very concerned.



Black voters and people of color express more intensity of concern than their white counterparts (50 percent Black, 50 percent POC, 42 percent white) and voters without a college degree are more likely to be very concerned (51 percent) than those with college educations (42 percent).

As shown in **Figure 3**, roughly 8-in-10 voters think once Maryland students are back learning in the classroom they will need either some additional support or a

¹ January 25-February 3, 2021, n=615 online respondents, registered voters, credibility interval +/- 4.0%

significant amount of additional support such as tutoring or targeted instruction. Just 13 percent of voters across the state believe Maryland students will be able to make up education losses with standard instruction once they are back learning in person.

We also measure near-consensus opinion around a range of arguments in support of Maryland spending more on K-12 public education. As shown in **Figure 4**, 7-in-10 voters agree with spending more on K-12 education to close opportunity gaps, and roughly 8-in-10 voter agree with spending more on K-12 education to provide more opportunities to prepare for careers and with spending more to make teacher salaries more competitive in Maryland.

