



**Mohammed Choudhury**  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools  
**DATE:** September 26, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Blueprint Implementation Updates

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### **Purpose**

This presentation aims to provide a briefing to the State Board of Education about MSDE actions related to Blueprint implementation. This presentation is part of a recurring series during State Board of Education meetings that will highlight MSDE initiatives connected to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

### **Background/Historical Perspective**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is a historic opportunity to transform education and accelerate student achievement for students across Maryland. The Blueprint presents new programs and innovative approaches to catalyze a world-renowned education system that aims to eradicate achievement gaps and ensures opportunity for every student, regardless of family income, race, ethnicity, or ability.

### **Executive Summary**

The presentation will include:

1. Updates on the Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Application
2. Updates on the Blueprint Statewide Finance and Data System

### **Action**

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

### **Attachments**

Blueprint Implementation Updates - September 2023.pdf

Office of the State Superintendent of Schools

# Blueprint Implementation Updates

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | September 26, 2023

Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood

Presented By | Justin Dayhoff, Assistant State Superintendent, Financial Planning, Operations, and Strategy

Phil Lasser, Executive Director, Office of the State Superintendent





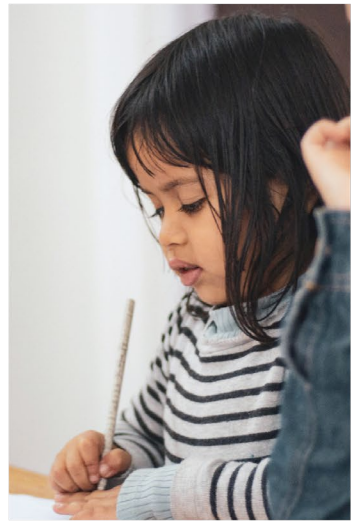
# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Application
2. Blueprint Statewide Finance and Data System

# The Blueprint Five Pillars

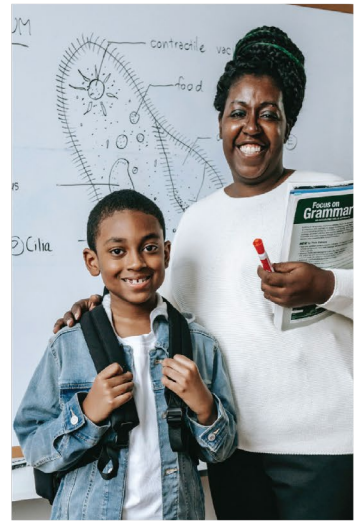
**5**  
BLUEPRINT  
PILLARS

The Blueprint encompasses five pillars, each including key initiatives aimed at transforming the quality of education in Maryland, and narrowing and closing opportunity and achievement gaps.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

- Support more families to access no cost, high-quality Pre-K
- Scale the impact of Patty & Judy Centers
- Expand family options through public/private Pre-K Partnerships



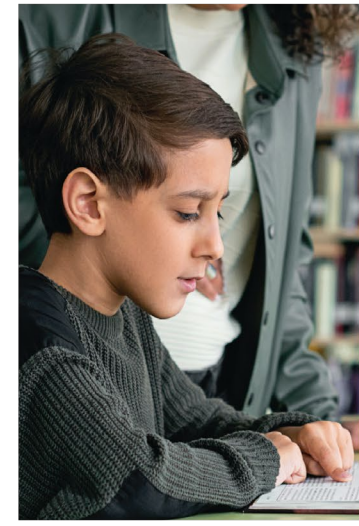
**HIGH-QUALITY & DIVERSE TEACHERS & LEADERS**

- Increasing starting salary to minimum \$60,000
- New career ladder and incentives for National Board Certified Teachers up to \$17,000
- Raising expectations for teacher preparation and induction



**COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS**

- New college and career readiness standard by 10th grade
- Aligned curriculum resources and assessments
- College and career readiness and support pathways
- Expanded career and technical education system




**MORE RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

- Community Schools and School-based Health Centers expansion
- Concentration of Poverty grants
- Targeted supports for historically underserved students



**GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY**

- Expert Review Teams
- Accountability and Implementation Board
- Local education agency Implementation Plans
- Maryland State Department of Education monitoring and technical assistance

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1. Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Application
  2. Blueprint Statewide Finance and Data System

# Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Application

*Access to child care assistance is easier than ever. The new fast track Child Care Scholarship application cuts the wait time for approval to just 3 business days.*



# Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Process

- The **fast-tracked process** allows families with children to **apply** for the Child Care Scholarship program and **begin participating in a child care program without having to wait** for the Maryland State Department of Education to determine a final eligibility decision.
- This **grace period allows families extra time to submit outstanding documents**, while allowing children to access much-needed early care and education.
- An individual must attest to meeting the eligibility requirements.
- If eligible, the family will **receive a temporary 60-day Child Care Scholarship**.
- To determine scholarship eligibility **beyond the initial 60-day period, applicants must complete the remaining steps of the Child Care Scholarship application process** by submitting all the necessary documentation within 15 business days.

# Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Eligibility

- Families complete a shortened online application in the Family Child Care Portal and are required to submit two verification documents:
  - **Proof of Activity** – work or attend a training or an education program
  - **Proof of Residency** – must be a Maryland resident
- Applicants must attest to meeting **income requirements** for the Child Care Scholarship program.

**Income Eligibility Scale**

Family Size	Maximum Income
2	\$61,222
3	\$75,627
4	\$90,033
5	\$104,438
6	\$118,843

## How is the Process Different?

- **Shortened Wait for Approval**
  - The new Fast Track Child Care Scholarship process shortens the wait to 3 business days for families to get help with child care expenses in the form of a 60-day scholarship.
- **Time to Complete the Full Application and Approval**
  - Approved applicants will have 15 business days to complete the Scholarship application and submit the remaining documentation to apply for a 52-week scholarship.
- **One-Time Approval**
  - Families can only be approved for a fast-tracked application once.



**GET MONEY**  
for **CHILD CARE**

**New fast track Child Care Scholarship Application process!**

Do you live in Maryland? Are you currently working or enrolled in a school or training program?

If so, you may qualify for a Child Care Scholarship!\*

[money4childcare.com](https://money4childcare.com)



SCAN ME

**Now available statewide**  
\*Income requirements apply



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE



# Child Care Scholarship: Application Submissions Data

**Application Submissions Data  
(4/28/2023 – 9/13/2023)**

Fast-Track: 60-Day Scholarships Approved Applications	4,136
Fast-Track: 60-Day Scholarships Total Applications	8,171
Fast-Track: Full Applications	5,660
Portal Accounts Created	32,575

**Comparison of Applications  
from 2022 vs. 2023**

		2022 New Applications	2023 Fast Track
July 1 – July 31	Number of Applications Submitted	1,630	2,437
	Average Number of Process Days for All Submitted Applications	33.10 Days	3.81 Days
August 1 – August 31	Number of Applications Submitted	2,440	3,479
	Average Number of Process Days for All Submitted Applications	31.95 Days	3.14 Days

1. Fast Track Child Care Scholarship Application
2. **Blueprint Statewide Finance and Data System**

# Blueprint Statewide Finance and Data System

*Integrating MSDE and LEA data systems, to implement the Blueprint and better serve Maryland students.*

# Blueprint Statutory Requirements

- “On or before July 1, 2023, the Department shall, in collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board:
  - **Implement a financial management system and student data system capable of tracking and analyzing the requirements under this section and integrating local school system data.”**
- The **accountability requirements linked to the system** (established in § 5-406) are in effect now (these do not wait until Fiscal Year 2025).
  - **Each LEA will submit data to MSDE on the use of school-level expenditures in the current fiscal year.**
  - **MSDE will then submit annual reports to AIB on the statewide use of school-level expenditures.**

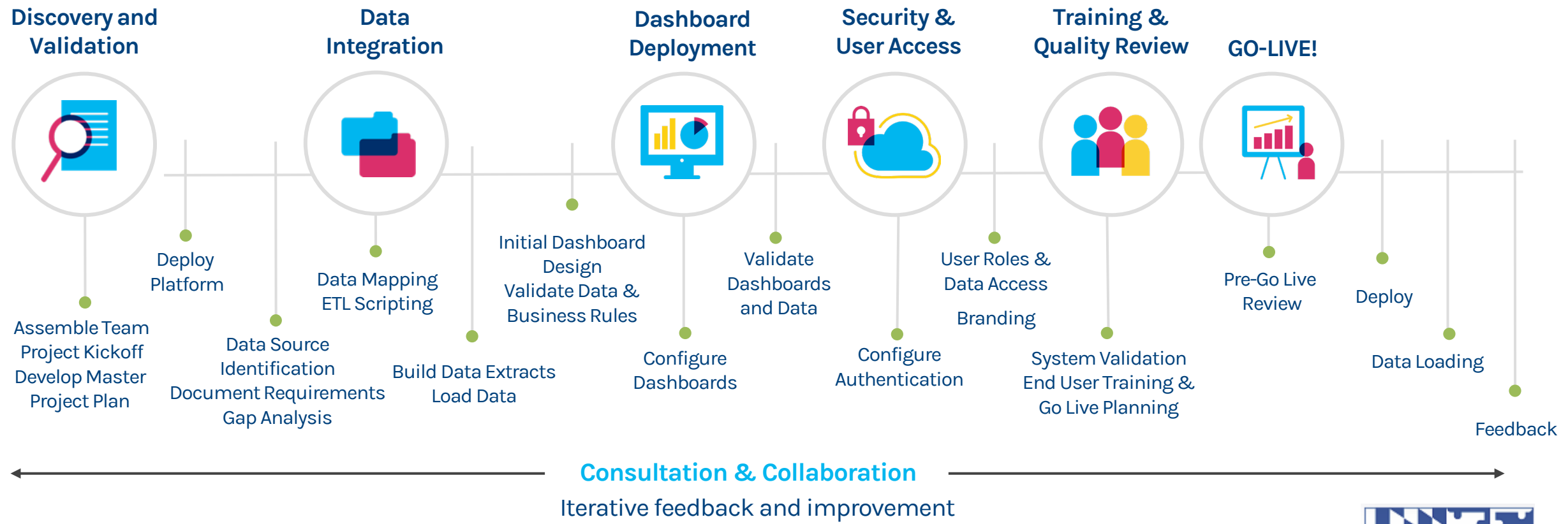
<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2020RS/bills/hb/hb1300E.pdf>; (5-234).

# Vision and Purpose: Statewide Finance and Data System

- The Blueprint envisions a **new statewide finance and data system capable of supporting the fiscal and student information requirements in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.**
  - MSDE will realize this goal through developing a **Relational-Database-Management-System (RDBMS) with a secure web-based user interface, business intelligence tools for reports, dashboards/data visualizations, and database connections with the 24 Maryland Local Education Agencies (LEAs).**
- The Blueprint includes **changes to State Aid calculations and changes to reporting requirements, which current systems cannot support.** MSDE must now collect **new data in new ways and with new frequency** and current systems are unable to support this work in the short- and long-term.
  - MSDE must be able to **collect school-level budget and expense data, per-pupil, by major State Aid category.**
  - MSDE must **collect, distribute, and validate National Board Certification data, by LEA and employee.**
  - MSDE must **collect and implement Tier I and Tier II enrollment data collection and validation for Blueprint PreK programs.**

## Project Timeline

Jul - Aug '22 → Aug - Nov '22 → Nov '22 - Feb '23 → Mar - May '23 → Jun'23 - Jul'23 - Aug '23





# Recent Project Updates

- **The financial dashboard website was implemented on June 30, 2023.**
- **LEA Finance Data Updates**
  - **24 of 24 LEAs have submitted at least 1 of 4 finance files.**
- **LEA Single-Sign-On (SSO) Authentication Updates**
  - **22 of 24 LEAs have completed SSO setup.**
- **MSDE has previewed the data dashboards.**
  - **The system is currently being reviewed by MSDE & AIB Executive Sponsors for final approval before granting LEAs access.**

## Dashboard Previews

Goal Met/Not Met


2022-2023 Fiscal Year, Period 12

LEA	STATUTE	5-201 - Foundation Program	5-213-CT - Collaborative Time Per Pupil	5-213-WB - Career Counseling Program - Workforce Board	5-217 - CCR Program	5-222 - Compensatory Education	5-223-PERSONNEL - Concentration of Poverty - Personnel Grant	5-223-PUPIL - Concentration of Poverty - Per Pupil Grant	5-226 - Transitional Supplemental Instruction	5-229 - Prekindergarten Funding	5-224 - EL Funding	5-225 - Special Education
		Not Met	Met	Met	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met	Not Met		
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			Met	Met								



# MSDE Blueprint Implementation Plan

- To learn more about MSDE's Blueprint Implementation progress, the **MSDE Blueprint Implementation Plan** is available at [bit.ly/BlueprintPlanMSDE](https://bit.ly/BlueprintPlanMSDE).
- The MSDE Blueprint Implementation Plan is organized around each objective in the Blueprint Comprehensive Plan. Each section contains:
  - List of the tasks that MSDE is responsible to complete
  - MSDE's completed actions to date
  - Supporting Implementation Artifacts
  - MSDE's Future Implementation Steps



Maryland State Department of Education:  
Blueprint Implementation Plan

**Objective 2.1: Recruit and Support High-Quality and Diverse Teachers**

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**MSDE Tasks**

Task ID	Requirement
2.1.1(b)	MSDE shall establish a diverse steering committee by FY19
2.1.1(c)	MSDE shall build a digital recruitment platform and outreach program focused on candidates from historically underrepresented populations and fields experiencing teacher shortages
2.1.1(d)	MSDE shall work with MLDS, MHEC, MDL, and LEAs to develop a robust data infrastructure to gather information on workforce needs and employment outcomes
2.1.1(e)	MSDE shall engage prospective teachers with messaging that cultivates their interest in the profession
2.1.1(f)	MSDE shall implement the "Talk to a Teacher" program to create opportunities for prospective teachers to communicate with role model teachers
2.1.1(g)	MSDE shall provide information to increase awareness of available state incentives for individuals pursuing a teaching certificate (e.g., Maryland Teaching Fellows Scholarship and LARP)
2.1.1(h)	MSDE shall provide information to prospective teacher candidates to increase awareness of persistent opportunity gaps and racial disparities between students and teachers in Maryland schools
2.1.5(a)	MLDS, in consultation with MSDE and MHEC, shall submit annual progress reports by 7/1 on improving the quality of the preparation and diversity of Maryland teacher candidates and new teachers

**MSDE Actions to Implement the Blueprint**

MSDE, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), Maryland colleges and universities, local education agencies (LEAs), and the Office of Tourism formed a Digital Recruitment Steering Committee in 2018 to guide the digital recruitment efforts required in Md. Code, Education Article §2-306. Utilizing input from the committee, MSDE led the effort for recruitment of a diverse teacher pipeline, including targeted recruitment of Maryland high school students, candidates of color, and National Board Certified teachers. The [Teach Maryland website](#) was developed in 2019 and was recently revamped as a "one-stop shop" for individuals interested in pursuing the teaching profession in Maryland. This website is updated on a continual basis and currently includes critical information regarding teacher preparation, certification, available incentives for teachers, and a description of each LEA, including student and teacher demographics, top vacancy areas, and a direct link to apply for employment. The Teach Maryland website also provides a link to MHEC's financial aid website, as well as information about the Teacher Fellows Scholarship program.

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# Questions