

Virtual English Learner (EL) Workgroup Meeting  
Maryland State Department of Education  
August 17, 2021  
9:00-10:30 AM

Meeting Notes

Workgroup Members in Attendance: Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury (Chair), Ms. Libia Gil, Mr. Sam Jackson (on behalf of Senator Kagan), Mr. Diego Juarez, Senator Cheryl Kagan, Dr. Eric Louers-Phillips, Dr. Kia McDaniel, Dr. Anjali Pandey, Mr. Matthew Peters, Ms. Elena Sorto, Ms. Judy Walker, Delegate Alonzo Washington, Dr. Conor Williams, Ms. Min Woo

MSDE Staff in Attendance: Ms. Julia Chavez, Mr. Amir François, Ms. Susan Spinnato, Ms. Laurel Williams, Ms. Ilhye Yoon

The meeting started at 9:02 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Superintendent Choudhury, the workgroup chair, welcomed the members and MSDE staff. He also provided the background of *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* and the importance of tasks that the workgroup would be engaged with. The members exchanged introductions and shared their level of experience working with ELs and knowledge of best practices in educating ELs.

**Overview of the State of EL in Maryland: A Data Story (See the attached PowerPoint)**

MSDE staff (Ms. Spinnato, Ms. Williams, Ms. Yoon, and Mr. François) shared data on ELs in Maryland. The following information was shared:

- The number of ELs, languages spoken by ELs, and racial makeup
- ELs who are eligible for free and reduced-priced meals
- ELs who are gifted and talented and receive special education services
- The number of ELs in local school systems and EL population changes
- Federal and State requirements for English language development (ELD) services
- Types of programs for ELD services
- ELD standards
- Academic achievements of ELs and reclassified ELs

**Responsibilities of Workgroup (See the attached PowerPoint)**

Ms. Spinnato shared guiding questions to elicit feedback from members of the workgroup. She also shared responsibilities of the workgroup and a timeline for submitting preliminary report to the General Assembly. The following responsibilities of workgroup were shared:

- Collecting EL data
- Reviewing methods of teaching and providing other services to ELs
- Making recommendations on improving the education of ELs in public schools in Maryland including recommending if additional funding should be provided
- Making recommendations to address learning loss among ELs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

**Closing**

The Google resource folder link and all future meeting dates and times were shared with the workgroup members.

The meeting ended at 10:30 a.m.