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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

**DATE:** May 21, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Increasing Literacy Outcomes in Maryland: Philanthropic Partnership

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### **Purpose**

The State Board of Education will receive information about a partnership focused on literacy between the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and a philanthropic organization. This partnership seeks to assist MSDE in increasing leader's and educator's access to high-quality professional learning opportunities aligned to the science of reading research. The goal of this literacy partnership is to improve instructional effectiveness leading to improved student outcomes that will prepare more students to read proficiently by 3rd grade and be on a path toward college and career readiness.

In addition, the partnership seeks to establish a Virtual Community of Practice focused on the application of the skills and practices covered in professional learning. MSDE will also launch a media campaign with the intent of providing the public with access to national speakers who will engage in conversations around reading acquisition and equity.

### **Background**

This partnership was developed through the combined efforts of philanthropic organizations, the State University of New York and AIM Institute for Research and will provide direct access to professional learning to over 30,000 educators across Maryland.

### **Executive Summary**

Provide information to the State Board of Education on the status of a philanthropic partnership to support literacy instruction for Maryland educators.

### **Action**

The State Superintendent requests that the State Board approve the use of \$350,000 credited to the Public Education Partnership Fund to support the administration of best instructional practices in the science of reading as part of MSDE's Comprehensive Literacy Plan.

### **Attachments**

Philanthropic Partnership.pptx

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEADING

# Increasing Literacy Outcomes in Maryland: Philanthropic Partnership

May 21, 2024

Presented By | Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Tenette Smith, Executive Director of Literacy Programs and Initiatives





# Presentation Outline

1. Overview of Partnership
2. Literacy Professional Development for Educators
3. Building the Capacity of Leaders to Support Literacy
4. Partnership for Programmatic Research

# Award of \$6,850,000.00 Investment in Maryland's Literacy Legacy

The following funds will be used to invest in two major components of MSDE's literacy initiative:

## \$5,350,000

- Access to High-Quality Professional Learning (HQPL) grounded in the Science of Reading
- Target Audience: Elementary and Secondary Teachers and Leaders

## \$1,500,000

Johns Hopkins University will evaluate:

- Literacy leadership development;
- Teacher background knowledge; and
- Teacher efficacy.

# Thank you to the Ibis Group for organizing and facilitating this philanthropic partnership.

The Ibis Group is a nonprofit whose mission is to ensure every student — regardless of demographics and including those with dyslexia – has access to evidence-based instructional methods and the resources needed to master grade-level reading by the end of the 1st grade.

- Chi Kim serves as the Board Chair, and Jason Griffiths serves as the Executive Director.
- All board members have served in schools and systems to improve educational outcomes for children.
- All funding from this partnership will come from Ibis - mostly in the form of donations to SUNY and AIM, and a portion as a gift to MSDE (\$350K).



## IBIS GROUP

Knowledge | Agency | Dignity

# Literacy Professional Development for Educators (SUNY)

The Office of Literacy Programs and Initiatives requested the following to support professional learning for educators aligned to the Science of Reading:

- Access to coursework (modules) with an emphasis on Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension.
- Modules supplemented by a series of expert webinars presented by the SUNY Science of Reading Center of Excellence.

Estimated participants beginning in July 2024:

- 1,500 Paraprofessionals (grow your own)
- 22,000 Elementary Teachers
- 4,000 Middle and High School Teachers or administrators

An additional \$350,000.00 or indirect costs (general operating)

\*The approximate awarded amount is \$2,350,000 over 4 years.

# Building the Capacity of Leaders to Support Literacy (AIM)

The Office of Literacy Programs and Initiatives requested the following to support the development of literacy leaders and secondary educators to provide professional learning aligned to the Science of Reading:

- AIM Pathways to Literacy Leadership (P-12)
  - **Approximately 4,000 participants**
- AIM Pathways to Proficient Reading: Secondary
  - **Approximately 2,000 participants**

The AIM Institute for Learning & Research® is a center for educational excellence and professional development that disseminates the latest research, technology, and best practices in the fields of literacy and language-based learning disabilities including dyslexia to educators across the country.

\*The approximate awarded amount is \$3,000,000 over 4 years.

# Partnership for Programmatic Research

## Johns Hopkins University

Through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), MSDE will partner with Johns Hopkins University to conduct an efficacy research study on the impact of this partnership.

Outcomes include, but are not limited to, researching the impact of professional learning on:

- Teacher efficacy;
- Teacher background knowledge;
- Literacy coaching supports and guidance; and
- Literacy leadership and development of procedures and processes to support teacher retention and recruitment.

\*The approximate awarded amount is \$1,500,000 over 4 years.



# Questions and Discussion