

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE MAY 29, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

**I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>SALARY GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u></b>
Buccigrossi, Laura	Service-Learning Specialist – Education Program Specialist I	21	Office of Accountability, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs	TBD

**II. Appointments Grade 18 and below**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>SALARY GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u></b>
Dhital, Govinda	Payroll Accountant – Accountant Lead Specialized	18	Office of Finance and Operations, Division of Financial Policy, Planning, Operations & Strategy	05/28/2025
Gregory, Lynera	Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor – Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	15	Office of Accountability, Division of Rehabilitation Services	05/28/2025
Merchant, Ernest	Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor – Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II	15	Office of Accountability, Division of Rehabilitation Services	05/28/2025
Sarpong, Peter	Federal Draw and Revenue Accountant – Accountant Lead Specialized	18	Office of Finance and Operations, Division of Financial Policy, Planning, Operations & Strategy	05/28/2025
Smith, Laura	Community Engagement Coordinator – Administrator III	18	Office of the Chief of Staff, Office of Communications and Community Engagement	06/11/2025

May 29, 2025

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Laura Buccigrossi

**Position:** Service-Learning Specialist – Education Program Specialist I

**Division/Office** Office of Accountability, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 21  
Annual Salary Range: \$84,229 - \$136,003

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Master's degree or the equivalent of 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate course work from an accredited college or university.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Four years of administrative or teaching experience in, or affiliated with, an education program.

**NOTES:**

1. Candidates may substitute a Bachelor's degree, and two additional years of experience directly related to the position option for the required education.
2. Candidates may substitute the possession of a Doctorate degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to the position option for one year of the required experience.
3. The required field of education and experience are unique for each option and are established by MSDE in accordance with Education Article, Section 2-104 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The specific education and experience qualifications for each position are on record in the Human Resources Office.

Laura Buccigrossi

**DESCRIPTION:**

The main purpose of the Service-Learning Specialist is to institutionalize high quality service-learning in all Maryland public schools and to encourage its application in schools across the United States. The senior service-learning specialist will provide technical assistance and training to local education agencies (LEAs) in service-learning, monitor service-learning implementation, administer statewide programs to support service-learning and assist colleagues in planning their work.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education**

Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Maryland) – Master’s Degree in Education

University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) – Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology

**Experience:**

Dominica Public Library System (Roseau, Dominica)

2024 – Present: Program and Learning Development Associate

Baltimore City Public Schools (Baltimore, Maryland)

2023 – 2024: Staff Instructional Coach and Professional Development Lead

2022 – 2023: Experiential Learning Research Fellow - Sabbatical Study

2013 – 2022: Lead Teacher and Experiential Learning Advocate

Teach for America (Baltimore, Maryland)

2013 – 2015: Corps Member

AmeriCorps Jumpstart Children First (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

2009 – 2013: Team Leader

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

New Hire

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PERSONNEL APPROVALS FOR THE MAY 29, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

**I. Appointments Grade 19 and above:**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>SALARY GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u></b>
Brewer, Chelsea	Executive Director of Literacy Programs & Initiatives – Program Manager Senior IV	26	Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Instructional Programs	TBD
Cohen, Elizabeth	Director of Recruitment and Staffing – Program Manager Senior I	23	Office of Finance and Operations, Division of Administration and Operations	TBD
Duvall-Jones, Cherie	Deputy Director, Communications and Community Engagement – Administrative Program Manager IV	22	Office of the Chief of Staff, Office of Communications	TBD
Lanier, Tianna	Director of School Improvements & Transformation – Education Program Manager II	24	Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Instructional Programs	TBD
Snell, Jill	Executive Director of School Leadership – Program Manager Senior IV	26	Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Instructional Programs	TBD
Tsokodayi, Yemurai	Education Data Collection Specialist – Education Program Specialist I	21	Office of Accountability, Division of Assessment and Accountability	TBD

**II. Appointments Grade 18 and below**

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>SALARY GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>DIVISION/OFFICE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE OF APPOINTMENT</u></b>
Adams Harper, Greta	Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee	15	Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Early Childhood	06/25/2025
Carey, Emily	School and Community Nutrition Programs Training Specialist – Staff Specialist III Education	18	Office of Finance and Operations, Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs	TBD

May 29, 2025

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Chelsea Brewer

**Position:** Executive Director of Literacy Programs & Initiatives – Program Manager Senior IV

**Division/Office** Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Instructional Programs

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 26  
Annual Salary Range: \$116,548 - \$188,528

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Master's degree or the equivalent of 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate coursework in Curriculum and Instruction, Administration, Education, or related areas from an accredited college or university.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Six years of experience in educational leadership with expertise in the areas of literacy, English Language Arts, curriculum development, coaching, professional learning, and coordinating or administering programs or services in a prekindergarten through grade 12 setting.

**NOTES:**

Candidates may substitute the possession of a Doctorate degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to the position for two years of the required experience.

Chelsea Brewer

**DESCRIPTION:**

In close collaboration with the Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning and the Office of the State Superintendent, develops and implements the vision, mission, and short- and long-term plans related to supporting literacy across the state in alignment with State's Literacy Framework, MSDE's strategic plan and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education**

American University (Washington, District of Columbia) 2024 – Doctor of Education in Policy and Leadership; 2016 – Master's Degree in Education Policy and Leadership

Hampton University (Hampton, Virginia) 2011 – Bachelor's Degree in Psychology

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2023 – Present: Coordinator, School Improvement and Supports Education Program  
Specialist II

Amplify Education Inc. (Brooklyn, New York)

2022 – 2023: District Coach (mCLASS Assessments)

District of Columbia Public Schools (Washington, District of Columbia)

2020 – 2022: Instructional Coach/School Based Testing Coordinator

2021 – 2021: Academy Principal

District of Columbia Scholars Public Charter School (Washington, District of Columbia)

2015 – 2020: Literacy Coach

2014 – 2015: Teacher

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Promotion



May 29, 2025

**BOARD LIST**

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Elizabeth Cohen

**Position:** Director of Recruitment and Staffing – Program Manager Senior I

**Division/Office** Office of Finance and Operations, Division of Administration and Operations

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 23  
Annual Salary Range: \$95,991 - \$154,928

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Bachelor's Degree or equivalent 60 credit hours of coursework in Human Resources, Business Administration, or related field.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Five years of professional experience in overseeing recruitment and staffing operations for a public or private sector organization with an emphasis on education. Three years of the required experience must have been in direct supervision of HR professionals.

**NOTES:**

Candidates may substitute the possession of a Master's degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to the position for two years of the required experience.

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Director of Recruitment and Staffing develops and implements data-driven recruitment strategies aligned with MSDE's mission and priorities. This role leads all aspects of talent acquisition, classification, compensation, and onboarding while providing excellent service to hiring managers, candidates, and employees.

Elizabeth Cohen

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education**

Loyola College of Maryland (Baltimore, Maryland) 1998 – Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology

The Pennsylvania State University (University Park, Pennsylvania) 1995 – Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2023 – Present: Senior Talent Partner – Program Manager IV

2022 – 2023: Talent Partner - Program Manager III

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (Baltimore, Maryland)

2020 – 2022: Manager of the Office of Talent Acquisition and Promotions

Department of Budget and Management (Baltimore, Maryland)

2012 – 2020: Deputy Director, Recruitment and Examination Division

1998 – 2012: HR Analyst

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Promotion

May 29, 2025  
BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Cherie Duvall-Jones

**Position:** Deputy Director, Communications and Community Engagement –  
Administrative Program Manager IV

**Division/Office** Office of the Chief of Staff, Office of Communications

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 22  
Annual Salary Range: \$89,913 - \$145,151

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Six years of experience overseeing communications and community engagement programs; two years of this experience must include the management and supervision of staff.

**NOTES:**

1. Candidates may substitute additional experience as defined above directly related to the position at the rate of one year of experience for each year of the required education.
2. Candidates may substitute the possession of a Master's degree from an accredited college or university for one year of the required experience.

Cherie Duvall-Jones

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Deputy Director of Communications and Community Engagement is responsible for managing the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE's) media relations, strategic community engagement, and outreach to promote MSDE's multi-year strategic plan and Blueprint for Maryland's Future initiatives, mission, values, schools, workforce and communities. Additionally, the Deputy Director will supervise staff responsible for conducting community-based town halls and other engagement activities, working with stakeholders to build collaborative relationships, to collectively communicate with MSDE, as well as Maryland State Board of Education, priorities, and key messaging.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education**

University of Maryland, Global Campus (Adelphi, Maryland) 2016 – Master's Degree in Public Relations

Towson University (Towson, Maryland) 2003 – Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications

**Experience:**

United States Food and Drug Administration (Silver Spring, Maryland)

2023 – Present: Press Officer

2020 – 2023: Public Affairs Specialist

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (Washington, District of Columbia)

2015 – 2020: Press Officer and Social Media Manager

2017 – 2018: Acting Chief of Public Affairs

Department of Health and Human Services (Bethesda, Maryland)

2014 – 2015: Public Affairs and Health Communications Specialist

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Washington, District of Columbia)

2010 – 2014: Writer/Editor

National League of Cities (Washington, District of Columbia)

2005 – 2010: Writer/Editor

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

New Hire

May 29, 2025

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Tianna Lanier

**Position:** Director of School Improvements & Transformation – Education Program Manager II

**Division/Office** Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Instructional Programs

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 24  
Annual Salary Range: \$102,426 - \$165,372

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Bachelor's degree in education or a related area from an accredited college or university.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Five years of experience in coordinating or administering education programs or services, including two years of experience directly related to School Improvement or Title I, Part A. Experience must include one year of supervising professional education program staff.

**NOTES:**

1. Candidates may substitute the possession of a Master's degree or the equivalent of 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate course work in Education, Education Administration Supervision, or a related area for two years of the required experience directly related to the position.
2. The required field of education and experience are unique for this posting and are established by MSDE in accordance with Education Article, Section 2-104 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The specific education and experience qualifications for each position are on record in the Office of Human Resources.

Tianna Lanier

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Director, Office of School Improvement and Transformation provides visionary leadership in the development and implementation of a state-wide system of support to local education agencies (LEAs) and private agencies to ensure that all students receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education. The Director will support LEAs in operationalizing and deploying comprehensive policies and practices that provide high-quality instruction, support, and services to students to accelerate learning, especially for those who have been historically underserved, to improve the performance of its lowest performance schools; and in support of MSDE's implementation of the multiyear strategic plan and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

## Education

Towson University (Towson, Maryland) 2016 – Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership;  
2011 – Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education

### Experience:

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2023 - Present: Manager, School Improvement and Supports – Education Program  
Manager I

## Baltimore City Public Schools (Baltimore, Maryland)

2022 – 2023: Director – Virtual Learning

2021 – 2022: Principal

2020 – 2021: Resident Principal

2014 – 2020: Instructional Coach

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

## Promotion

May 29, 2025  
BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Jill Snell

**Position:** Executive Director of School Leadership – Program Manager Senior IV

**Division/Office** Office of Teaching and Learning, Division of Instructional Programs

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 26  
Annual Salary Range: \$116,548 - \$188,528

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Master's degree or the equivalent of 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate coursework in Curriculum and Instruction, Administration, Education, or related areas from an accredited college or university.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Six years of experience in educational leadership with expertise in the areas of curriculum development, coaching, professional learning, and coordinating or administering programs or services in prekindergarten through grade 12 setting.

**NOTES:**

Candidates may substitute the possession of a Doctorate degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to the position for two years of the required experience.

Jill Snell

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Senior Executive Director, Office of Teaching & Learning serves as principal advisor to the Deputy State Superintendent, Office of Teaching & Learning (OTL), and will provide direct support to the oversight, coordination and supervision of teaching and learning across the State of Maryland to ensure all students are receiving efficient and effective instructional programming. This position supports the Deputy Superintendent in directing and leading the coordination of program management across offices at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to ensure efficiency and streamlined cross-office communication and collaboration in alignment with MSDE's efforts in implementing the multi-year strategic plan and the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education**

Goucher College (Baltimore, Maryland) 2007 – Master's Degree in Reading

Bloomsburg University (Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania) 2003 – Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2022 – Present: Expert Review Team (Contractual)

Baltimore County Public Schools (Baltimore, Maryland)

2024 – Present: Manager, Educator Development

2022 – 2024: Coordinator, Teacher Leadership

2019 – 2022: Supervisor, Professional Learning

2014 – 2019: Resource Teacher, Professional Learning

2013 – 2014: Staff Development Teacher

2010 – 2013: Reading Specialist

2004 – 2013: Classroom Teacher

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

New Hire



May 29, 2025

BOARD LIST

The following professional appointment is submitted for approval by the State Board of Education:

**Name:** Yemurai Tsokodayi

**Position:** Education Data Collection Specialist – Education Program Specialist I

**Division/Office** Office of Accountability, Division of Assessment and Accountability

**Salary Grade:** State Salary Grade: 21  
Annual Salary Range: \$84,229 - \$136,003

**Effective Date:** TBD

**JOB REQUIREMENTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

A Master's degree or the equivalent of 36 credit hours of post-baccalaureate coursework from an accredited college or university.

**EXPERIENCE:**

Four years of professional experience in data collection, management, and analysis. Experience in or affiliated with an education program is preferred.

**NOTES:**

1. Candidates may substitute a Bachelor's degree, and two additional years of experience directly related to the position option for the required education.
2. Candidates may substitute the possession of a Doctorate degree at an accredited college or university in a field related to the position for one year of the required experience.
3. The required field of education and experience are unique for each option and are established by MSDE in accordance with Education Article, Section 2-104 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The specific education and experience qualifications for each position are on record in the Office of Human Resources.
4. Candidates may substitute U.S. Armed Forces military service experience as a commissioned officer in Education Program classifications

Yemurai Tsokodayi

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Education Data Collection Specialist provides programmatic support and technical expertise in data collections and management within the Division of Assessment, Accountability, Performance Reporting, & Research (DAAPR) in implementing the Department's education accountability program. This position is critical to supporting the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) mission to develop and support a strong accountability system to increase academic success for all students. The Data Collection Specialist is responsible for defining, capturing, assuring quality, and report development for data collections related to the data requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA), the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, and as required by other state and federal laws. This position provides a critical role in compiling and reporting data collected from various sources required in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Education**

University of Maryland (Baltimore County, Maryland) – Master's Degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology

University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland) - Bachelor's Degree in International Business and Psychology

**Experience:**

Maryland State Department of Education (Baltimore, Maryland)

2025 – Present: Data Collection Specialist – Education Program Specialist I (Contractual)

American Institutes for Research (Arlington, Virginia)

2014 – 2025: Senior Researcher

University of Maryland (College Park, Maryland)

2012 – 2013: Consulting Team Member

2012 – 2013: Research Assistant

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

New Hire