

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

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

DATE: June 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding between the Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board

Purpose

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) have developed a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to set forth the roles and responsibilities of each entity as well as the shared commitment to ongoing collaboration.

Background

The State Board, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the AIB have been close partners working together to implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. As the implementation of the various programs of the Blueprint continues to mature, the State Board and AIB have decided to codify the various roles and responsibilities of each entity to ensure more efficient and effective implementation for each program.

Executive Summary

The MOU between the State Board and the AIB details various provisions for how the two parties should work together. This includes a shared commitment to collaboration and information sharing, with detailed provisions to ensure this practice is sustained. The MOU also specifies that each entity has the duties defined in Exhibit I: Delineated Roles and Responsibilities of AIB and MSDE.

Action

Request for adoption of the attached MOU between the State Board and the AIB Exhibit I: Delineated Roles and Responsibilities of AIB and MSDE.

Attachments

MOU_ State Board and AIB - June 2025.pdf

Exhibit I _ Delineated Roles and Responsibilities of AIB and MSDE.pdf

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and entered into by and between the Maryland State Board of Education ("State Board") and the Accountability and Implementation Board ("AIB"), collectively referred to as "the Parties."

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to set forth the roles and responsibilities of the State Board and the AIB with respect to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future ("Blueprint") as mandated by Maryland law.

II. AUTHORITIES

This MOU is entered into pursuant to the Maryland Education Article, including but not limited to Title 5, Subtitle 4, which establishes the AIB and sets forth its general powers and duties and Title 2, Subtitle 2, which establishes the State Board and sets forth its general powers and duties.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of the Parties with respect to the Blueprint are set forth in Exhibit I to this MOU.

IV. COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

1. The Parties shall meet at least quarterly to discuss progress, challenges, and strategies related to Blueprint implementation.
2. The State Board shall timely provide AIB with all data and reports necessary for monitoring Blueprint implementation and holding State and local agencies accountable for meeting the outcomes of the Blueprint.
3. AIB shall share its evaluations and recommendations with the State Board to support policy refinement and implementation improvement.
4. The Parties shall maintain open communication channels.
5. The Parties may jointly adopt Blueprint policies to ensure alignment.

V. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of a disagreement regarding the interpretation of this MOU, the Parties shall engage in good-faith negotiations to resolve the dispute.

VI. AMENDMENTS

This MOU may be amended in writing by mutual agreement of the Parties.

VII. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the dates set forth below.

FOR THE MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joshua Michael, Ph.D
President, State Board of Education
Date: _____

Approved for form and legal sufficiency:

Elliott Schoen, Principal Counsel
for the Maryland State Board of Education

FOR THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION BOARD

Isiah Leggett
Chair, Accountability and Implementation Board
Date: _____

Approved for form and legal sufficiency:

Heidi Dudderar, Assistant Attorney General
for the Accountability and Implementation Board

Roles and Responsibilities of AIB and MSDE			
Policy Area	Responsibilities	Roles	Statute/Blueprint Comprehensive Plan Citation
Pillar 1 - Early Childhood Education	Expand high quality publicly funded full-day pre-K	SBOE Leads	Pillar 1, Objective 1
	Assess student readiness for kindergarten	SBOE Leads	Pillar 1, Objective 2
	Expand family supports	SBOE Leads	Pillar 1, Objective 3
	Examine the racial, ethnic, disability-status, and income makeup of full-day prekindergarten students, disaggregated by providers, and whether the mix of public and private prekindergarten providers is effectively meeting the needs of families	AIB Leads	Ed 5-408(a)(9)
Pillar 2 - High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders	Recruit and support high-quality teachers and diverse teachers to meet workforce needs.	SBOE Leads	Pillar 2, Objective 1
	Increase rigor of teacher preparation programs and licensure requirements	SBOE Leads	Pillar 2, Objective 2
	Implement comprehensive in-service educator training	SBOE Leads	Pillar 2, Objective 3
	Establish new statewide educator career ladder and professional development system*	SBOE Leads	Pillar 2, Objective 4
	Approve LEA collaborative time percentage phase-in over 8 years	SBOE Leads	6-1002(h)(2)
	Approve LEA collaborative time implementation plans	AIB Leads	5-213(d)(2)
	Improve educator compensation	SBOE Leads	Pillar 2, Objective 5
	Ensure \$60,000 minimum teacher compensation is achieved by July 1, 2026	AIB Leads	6-1009(e)
	Establish a school leadership training program	SBOE Leads, AIB Consults	6-124
	Monitor and review the performance of each teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education and alternative teacher preparation program	AIB Leads	5-408(a)(3)
	Examine the school-level diversity of public school staff and student bodies	AIB Leads	5-408(a)(5)
	Monitor and review the placement and concentration of students in particular racial, ethnic, linguistic, economic, and disability status groups assigned to novice teachers, teachers providing instructions in fields in which they lack expertise, long-term substitutes, and effective teachers	AIB Leads	5-408(a)(6)
	Monitor public schools and local school systems to ensure that sufficient numbers of teachers are participating in the career ladder and achieving National Board Certification	AIB Leads	5-408(a)(8)
	Determine that the career ladder has been well-established throughout the State	AIB Leads	5-409(c)(2)
Pillar 3 - College and Career Readiness	On or after July 1, 2026, in consultation with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, perform an evaluation that measures the effectiveness of efforts to increase diversity in enrollment in teacher preparation programs, teacher candidates who successfully graduate from teacher preparation programs and subsequently enter the teaching profession, and teachers and school leaders in primary and secondary schools in the State	AIB Leads	5-414(a)
	On or before December 31, 2026, the Board shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the results of the evaluation above, including any recommendations for alterations in State programs and policies as needed to ensure diversity in the areas described under subsection (a) of this section	AIB Leads	5-414(c)
	Provide equitable opportunities to all students to become college and career ready	SBOE Leads	Pillar 3, Objective 1
	Ensure students are progressing towards meeting CCR	SBOE Leads	Pillar 3, Objective 2
	Implement CCR pathways	SBOE Leads	Pillar 3, Objective 3
	Establish high school curriculum, college and career readiness standards, and graduation requirements	SBOE Leads, AIB Consults	7-205.1(b)(2)
	Contract with a public or private entity for a CCR study	SBOE Leads, AIB Consults	7-205.1(b)(3)
	Provide high-quality career counseling* and CTE programs	SBOE Leads	Pillar 3, Objective 4
	Oversee the CTE Committee	AIB Leads	5-409(b)(1); 21-209

Roles and Responsibilities of AIB and MSDE			
Policy Area	Responsibilities	Roles	Statute/Blueprint Comprehensive Plan Citation
	Provide technical assistance to the CTE Committee	AIB Leads	5-402(e)(3)
	Determine that the Blueprint has been fully implemented (impacts availability of post-CCR pathways)	AIB Leads	7-205.1(e)(3)(ii)
Pillar 4 - More Resources for Students Who Need Them	Accurately identify students from low-income households as a proxy for students who need more resources to be successful	SBOE Leads	Pillar 4, Objective 1
	Improve the education of multilingual learners	SBOE Leads	Pillar 4, Objective 2
	Improve education for students with disabilities	SBOE Leads	Pillar 4 Objective 3
	Provide supports for students attending schools with a high concentration of students from low-income households	SBOE Leads	Pillar 4, Objective 4
	Enhance student health services	SBOE Leads	Pillar 4, Objective 5
	Monitor the expenditures of Concentration of Poverty funding to ensure that public schools are providing the necessary services	AIB Leads	5-406(d)
	Monitor how additional special education funding is being used	AIB Leads	5-406(e)
	Monitor and review the progress of community schools receiving grants	AIB Leads	5-408(a)(7)
	Make recommendations on the neighborhood indicators of poverty	AIB Leads	Hum Svcs 8-104(b)
Pillar 5 - Governance and Accountability	Support LEA Blueprint implementation plan development	AIB Leads	Pillar 5, Objective 1
	Establish and deploy Expert Review Teams	SBOE Leads, AIB Consults	Pillar 5, Objective 2; 5-408(a)(10)
	Coordinate Maryland's participation in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA)	SBOE Leads	Pillar 5 Objective 3
	Monitor Blueprint outcomes	AIB Leads	Pillar 5, Objective 4; 5-402(c)(2)
	Review and approve implementation plans	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(1)
	Monitor the implementation of approved plans	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(2)(i)
	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies to disseminate information on best practices, programs, and resources	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(2)(ii)
	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies to provide technical assistance and training specifically related to the Blueprint as identified annually (e.g., expert review teams, resource allocation)	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(2)(iii)
	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies to provide technical assistance and training to support local school systems and public schools.	SBOE Leads	§2-106(2); §2-205(g)(3)
	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies to resolve implementation issues as they arise	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(2)(iv)(1)
	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies to promote interagency efforts to achieve the purposes of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(2)(iv)(2)
	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies to promote interagency efforts to reduce the effects of societal and economic isolation on student achievement and opportunity by promoting socioeconomic diversity in communities and schools	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(2)
	Receive periodic updates, in accordance with the Board's guidelines, on progress responsible entities are making towards reaching the implementation plan goals	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(3)
	Request any information the Board determines is necessary to carry out its obligations from an entity responsible for carrying out the implementation plans under this section	AIB Leads	5-404(d)(4)
	Implement a financial management/student data system	SBOE Leads, AIB Consults	5-234(c)(1)
	Update the "Financial Reporting Manual for Maryland Public Schools" to ensure uniformity in reporting expenditures for each school	SBOE Leads, AIB Consults	5-234(c)(2)
	Monitor the expenditures of local school systems to ensure that minimum school-level funding requirements are met	AIB Leads	5-406(c)

Roles and Responsibilities of AIB and MSDE			
Policy Area	Responsibilities	Roles	Statute/Blueprint Comprehensive Plan Citation
Pillar 5 - Governance and Accountability, continued	Report annually to the Governor, the public, and the General Assembly on implementation progress, recommended legislative changes, compliance by State and local agencies, and sufficiency of funding	AIB Leads	5-409(b)(3)
	The AIB may withhold more than 25% of the increase in the State share of major education aid over the amount provided in the current fiscal year from a public school or local school system, if, in the judgment of the Board: (1) A local school system has not made satisfactory efforts to develop or revise the implementation plan required to be approved by the Board under § 5-404 of this subtitle; (2) A public school or local school system has not made sufficient progress on its implementation plan; or (3) A public school or local school system has not taken appropriate steps to improve student performance	AIB Leads	5-405(e)
	Beginning in fiscal year 2022, the AIB may withhold appropriated funds from the MSDE, MHEC, the CTE Committee, or any other entity of State or local government responsible for developing an implementation plan if the entity: (1) Has not developed an initial implementation plan, or has not had its implementation plan approved; or (2) Has not implemented its implementation plan appropriately	AIB Leads	5-407(a)
	Provide technical assistance to LEAs and CTE Committee to develop and implement their Blueprint Implementation Plan	AIB Leads	5-402(e)(3)
	Develop a waiver process for an LEA to ask for greater flexibility in use of funds	AIB Leads	5-406(f)
	Develop an appeals process for an LEA to contest withholding of funds	AIB Leads	5-405(k)
	Provide outreach and educational materials to parents, students, and members of the public on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future	AIB Leads	5-409(b)(5)
	First evaluation: By December 1, 2026, contract with a public or private entity to conduct an independent evaluation of the State's progress in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and achieving the expected outcomes during the implementation period	AIB Leads	5-410(c)(1)(i)
	First AIB Report: By January 15, 2027, report to the Governor and General Assembly on whether the Blueprint is being implemented as intended and achieving the expected outcomes including specific progress markers	AIB Leads	5-410(d)(1)
	Final evaluation: By October 1, 2030, contract with a public or private entity to conduct an independent evaluation of the State's progress in implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and achieving the expected outcomes during the implementation period	AIB Leads	5-410(c)(1)(ii)
	Final AIB Report: By December 1, 2030, report to the Governor and General Assembly on the results of the final independent evaluation, including specific determinations made by the AIB	AIB Leads	5-410(d)(2)