

February 27, 2024

On Tuesday, February 27, The State Board of Education and Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) held a joint meeting, in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting of the State Board.

Following opening comments by State Board President Clarence Crawford and AIB Chair Ike Leggett, President Crawford convened the State Board's monthly meeting and was joined by State Board members including: Vice President Joshua Michael, Chuen-Chin Bianca Chang, Susan Getty, Monica Goldson, Nick Greer, Irma Johnson, Joan Mele-McCarthy, Rachel McCusker, Samir Paul, Holly Wilcox, and student member Abisola Ayoola from Howard County.

AIB members in attendance included: Chair Ike Leggett, Vice Chair Brit Kirwan, Mara Doss, Jennifer Lynch, Joe Manko, Justin Robinson, and Laura Stapleton.

[Link to February 27, 2024, meeting agenda, materials, and video.](#)

Opening Remarks

President Crawford made opening remarks welcoming Chair Leggett and members of the AIB, and highlighting the need to manage the transformative changes called for in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and other major reform initiatives such as the shift to the science of reading as the statewide method of reading literacy instruction. He also stressed the need for clear, high expectations for students expressed on daily basis from educators, parents and guardians, and others.

AIB Chair Ike Leggett introduced the members of the AIB in attendance and offered opening remarks highlighting that he believes the Blueprint is a wonderful plan, and the state is fortunate to have a Governor and General Assembly which are very supportive of the Blueprint, and excellent educational leadership. He emphasized the need for collaborative relationships between the AIB, State Board, and other leaders to make certain the Blueprint is sustained and successful over the long haul.

Public Comments

Public comments were delivered by:

- Sharon Saroff, a special education consultant and advocate, shared her concerns that while inclusion is important no one size fits all approach is in the best interest of students with disabilities.
- Dr. Darryl Williams, Research Faculty/Asst Director: NCEED in the School of Education at Morgan State University, and former Baltimore County School Superintendent, highlighted

the mission and programs provided by the National Center for the Elimination of Educational Disparities (NCEED).

- Cheryl Bost, President of the Maryland State Education Association, highlighted recent and ongoing collaborative work of Blueprint and legislative initiatives, including reforms to teacher pathways and the Grow Your Own legislation pending in the legislature.
- Laura Weeldryer, Executive Director of the Maryland Family Network (MFN), described the work of the Network, a recently released report, and searchable database to search child care providers.
- Shamoyia Garner, Executive Director of Strong Schools Maryland, shared that Strong Schools has been the leading grassroots advocacy organization supporting the Blueprint since 2017. She highlighted concerns with local school system fiscal stewardship and transparency in one jurisdiction reported to have misspent Blueprint funding.
- Jabari Walker, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator at Bowie State University, highlighted an upcoming “teach in” to advance climate change and climate solutions in elementary and secondary schools and universities during the first week of April 2024.
- Sharlimar Douglass, Chair of the Maryland Alliance for Racial Equity, shared findings that many conditionally certified teachers are not informed of the requirements to become professionally certified, including the educational costs and time commitment involved. She highlighted that this is especially troubling given the increased reliance on conditionally certified teachers, the fact they the pool of is racially diverse and should be supported by clear information and certification pathways.
- Lauren Long, literacy teacher in Anne Arundel County, advocated for including literacy teachers in the Blueprint’s salary enhancements for National Board Certified (NBC) teachers.

Consent Agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda including prior meeting minutes, personnel actions, and budget adjustments.

Stakeholder Engagement with the Maryland Dept. of Service & Civic Innovation

President Crawford welcomed representatives from the Department of Service & Civic Innovation who presented and introduction and overview of the new Department and the Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Program.

- [Maryland Corps/Service Year Option Presentation](#)

Priority Issues

National Board and the Science of Reading

The State Board received a briefing from a panel of representatives from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) on the status of revisions to their literacy standards to align with the science of reading. Dr. Joe Doctor led the presentation, emphasizing the National Board’s strong support for the Blueprint. Maryland is introducing a comprehensive literacy policy that will align all instruction to the Science of Reading in the 2024-25 school year. The State Board

has frequently expressed its frustration with the lack of alignment with the Science of Reading in the NBPTS teacher professional development content.

According to NBPTS, there is an established and growing consensus across states that literacy instruction should be grounded in a specific set of research-based teaching strategies, collectively referred to as the Science of Reading. NBPTS presented a detailed timeline for the development and release of their new standards in 2024 through collaboration with MSDE’s Office of Teaching and Learning and Maryland educators. The goal is to publish the updated standards in September 2024.

- National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

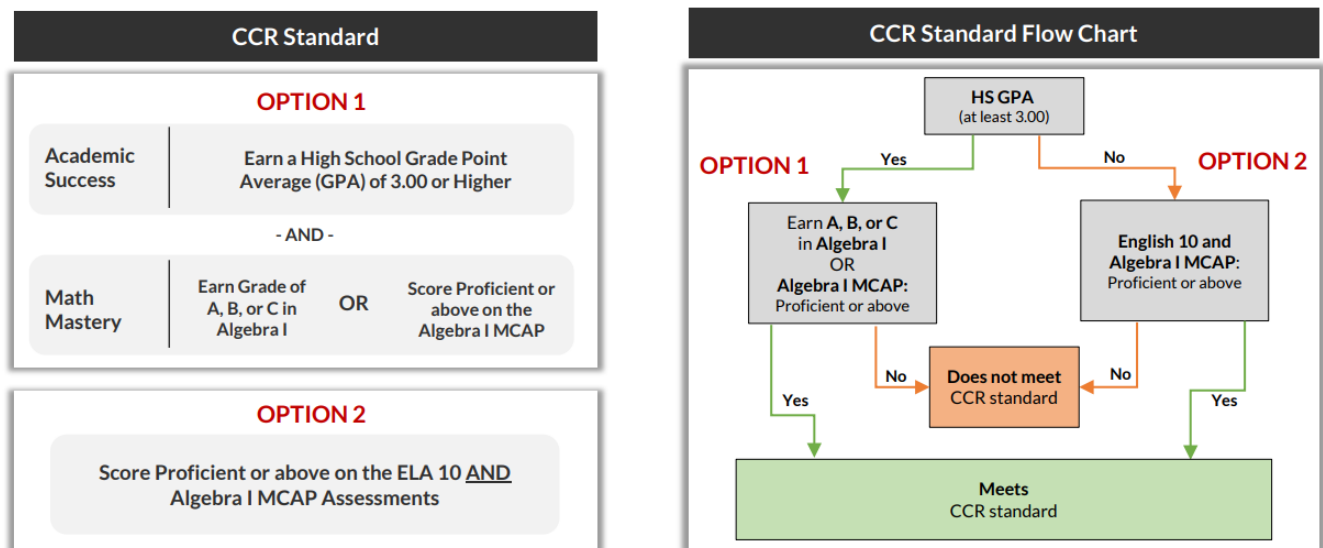
College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard

The State Board received a detailed presentation from Rachel Hise, AIB Executive Director, and Dr. Deanne Collins, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, on the recently adopted College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard, the original vision behind the CCR standard, and the CCR Support Pathway, as described by the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

Ms. Hise spoke at length about the vision, purpose and operation of the multiple pathways to college and career readiness. She highlighted challenges, including the alignment of the per pupil funding which always lags one year, but now is also based on performance on the interim CCR standard, not the new standard. Another challenge is to provide legal and financial clarity for local school systems on minimum program and funding requirements under the new standard. Another significant challenge has been identified regarding dual enrollment, whether delivers in high schools or on community college campuses, and whether the school system should be required to pay the community college the full cost of tuition for students receiving dual enrollment credits for courses taken in high schools.

The Board engaged in lengthy discussion on their issues and concerns with the implementation and application of newly adopted CCR standards in local school systems.

Adopted College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard



- Presentation: College and Career Readiness (CCR) Next Steps and Support Pathways

Education Plans: Alignment of Metrics

MSDE staff briefed the Board on the need to identify and align the metrics of multiple state education plans. Over the past eight months, three state education plans have been released. The State Board and MSDE released their Strategic Plan in June 2023, the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) issued their Blueprint Comprehensive Implementation Plan in August 2023, and the Office of Governor Wes Moore released the Moore-Miller Administration State plan in February 2024. Each plan includes a list of education metrics to track.

Dr. Wright and members of the AIB and State Board agreed that this process of analyzing the three plans toward the goal of achieving more rapid and robust improvements in student performance.

- Aligning Goals for Student Achievement

State Superintendent's Update

Dr. Wright introduced her new Chief of Staff, Alex Reese, and Deputy Superintendent for the Office of Accountability, Geoff Sanderson.

Assessment and Accountability Task Force Update

Dr. Wright described her decision to establish a task force to review assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and other subjects, are aligned to State standards and accurately measure proficiency. She emphasized that review and revisions are overdue and needed to ensure that the State accountability system appropriately reflects proficiency results and includes a student growth component. She also noted that this process will be more public and transparent than previous reviews.

Early Learning Standards (adoption)

The Division of Early Childhood presented for review and adoption the revised and updated Early Learning Standards for children, birth through age 3. Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Shayna Cook briefed the Board on needed updated to PreK-Grade 4 standards to reflect new developments in brain science and the child development field.

- Early Learning Standards Revisions and Updates (ACTION)

Blueprint PreK Sliding Scale for Tuition (adoption)

The State Board received an overview from Assistant State Superintendent Dr. Shayna Cook and voted to adopt a proposed sliding scale for families falling within the 301–600% of the Federal Poverty Level (Tier II). The sliding scale developed by MSDE is intended to ensure that these families pay no more than 7% of their gross annual income as their share of the publicly funded PreK slots available under the Blueprint.

- Pre-K Sliding Scale (ACTION)

Teacher Licensure Assessment (adoption)

The State Board adopted the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Praxis subject assessment Special Education: Foundational Knowledge (5355). This assessment is a regenerated from the previous version that is currently adopted in Maryland. The regenerated assessment was designed to align with the 2020 Council for Exceptional Children Standards for Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Special Educators.

- [Teacher Licensure Assessments: Adoption of Regenerated Assessment \(ACTION\)](#)

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Results

The presentation provided state-level results of the KRA 2023-2024 administration, including disaggregated data for student groups and comparisons to prior years. The presentation included an overview of a West Ed study and report to the AIB on the Evaluation of Racial, Cultural, or Linguistic Bias of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

- [Update on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and WestEd Report](#)

Board Opinions

The State Board issued legal opinions for the following cases:

- *J'Han Brady v. Howard County Board of Education*, affirming the local board's personnel decision.
- *D.S. v. Howard County Board of Education*, affirming the local board's transportation decision.
- *G.P. and D.C. v. Montgomery County Board of Education*, dismissing the appeal for mootness.
- *Stephen Price v. Howard County Board of Education*, staying the appeal until the District Court rules on the appellant's ADA claim.
- *Vincent Shipp v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education*, dismissing the appeal for untimeliness.