
TO: Members of the State Board of Education
Members of the Accountability & Implementation Board

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

DATE: February 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Literacy Expert Instructional Support Teams Update



Purpose

The State Board will receive an update on the statewide Literacy Expert Instructional Support Teams and supporting activities.

MSDE staff and AIB staff have met consistently over the course of this year to collaborate regarding ongoing effective strategies for implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Improving literacy rates has consistently been identified as a core goal of both entities. As an additional strategy alongside the work already underway, MSDE and AIB worked to develop the literacy expert instructional support team initiative which takes an additional step towards meeting that goal.

The goal of the Literacy Initiative is to improve instructional effectiveness leading to improved student outcomes that will prepare more students to read proficiently by 3rd grade and be on the path toward college and career readiness.

Background

The Literacy Initiative approved in November of 2023, includes deploying approximately 10 literacy experts to work in teams of 2 to visit and evaluate each LEA, including early education literacy plans (Pre-K-3 or Pre-K-5), teacher training, instructional materials, use/training of coaches, data analysis, observations of approximately 10% of elementary schools, focus groups (e.g. elementary principals, teachers, coaches) and provide a report with recommendations to MSDE and AIB to detail additional actions and supports needed to improve literacy instruction, teacher efficacy and student outcomes.

Executive Summary

- Provide an update to the State Board of Education on the status of the Literacy Expert Instructional Support Team process.
- Provide an update on the status of the Comprehensive Literacy Plan Review and the expected timeline of activities and observational evaluation of LEAs instructional delivery.

Action

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

Attachments

Literacy Expert Instructional Support Teams Update.pdf

Office of Teaching and Learning

Literacy Expert Instructional Support Teams Update

February 27, 2024

Presented By |

Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Tenette Smith, Executive Director Literacy
Initiatives and Programs



Partnership with the Maryland Initiative for Literacy and Equity (MILE)



- MSDE and AIB are partnering with MILE on the implementation of the Literacy Expert Instructional Support Teams Initiative.
- To address equity in literacy with innovative translational research, faculty spanning eight units in five colleges and two universities have established the Maryland Initiative for Literacy & Equity (MILE), forming a one-of-a-kind institute.
- MILE harnesses research-practice partnerships in education, speech and language pathology, library science, community and stakeholder outreach, and policy. Their research focuses on addressing systemic obstacles to literacy, moving beyond current siloed approaches.

Literacy Initiative

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) approved a joint proposal to create teams of literacy experts to evaluate reading instruction in Maryland.

Approximately 10 literacy experts from across the State will be identified to work in teams of two to:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of elementary literacy instruction in all Maryland school districts;
- Review and provide feedback on LEA Comprehensive Literacy Plans (CLPs);
- Collaborate with district leaders, principals, and teachers to enhance structures and provide professional learning on the Science of Reading (SoR) and ensure that high-quality literacy instruction is available for every student; and
- Provide professional learning opportunities for district leaders in the creation of district-wide coaching models.

The goal is to **visit all 24 LEAs in SY 23-24 and provide support** at both the LEA and school level.

Literacy Initiative Project Timeline



MILE Review Schedule

Literacy Reviews	
Literacy Plan Feedback	Beginning February 28
Office Hours to Discuss Feedback	Beginning March 4
LEA Visits	March – May 2024
2nd Round of Plan Feedback Returned to MILE	Beginning March 29
Final Response from LEAs Final Feedback about CLPs Include data from Expert review Draft Reports	April – May 2024
Presentation to MSDE	June 2024
Presentation to AIB	July 2024