



**Mohammed Choudhury**  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**To:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**From:** Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools  
**Date:** March 28, 2023  
**Subject:** Blueprint Implementation Plan Updates

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### **Purpose**

To provide a briefing to the State Board of Education on the Implementation Plans for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

### **Background/Historical Perspective**

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is a historic opportunity to transform education and accelerate student achievement for students across Maryland. The Blueprint presents new programs and innovative approaches to catalyze a world-renowned education system that aims to eradicate achievement gaps and ensures opportunity for every student, regardless of family income, race, ethnicity, or ability.

Education Article §5-404 requires each local education agency (LEA), and other State and local government units, to develop an Implementation Plan. Implementation Plans shall describe the goals, objectives, and strategies that will be used to improve student achievement and meet the Blueprint for Maryland's Future recommendations for each segment of the student population. The initial submission was due March 15, 2023.

### **Executive Summary**

The presentation will include a discussion on the Blueprint Implementation Plan development process, in four sections:

1. Overview of Blueprint Implementation Plan Expectations
2. MSDE's Collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and Support for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
3. MSDE's Implementation Plan
4. Next Steps to Support Blueprint Implementation

### **Attachments**

Blueprint Implementation Plan Updates.pdf



# Blueprint Implementation Plan Updates

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | March 28, 2023

Presented By | Dr. Deann Collins, Dr. Sylvia Lawson, and Phil Lasser



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Overview of Blueprint Implementation Plan Expectations
2. MSDE's Collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) and Support for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
3. MSDE's Implementation Plan
4. Next Steps to Support Blueprint Implementation



# Overview of Blueprint Implementation Plan Expectations

1. Overview of Blueprint Implementation Plan Expectations
2. MSDE's Collaboration with the AIB and Support for LEAs
3. MSDE's Implementation Plan
4. Next Steps to Support Blueprint Implementation

*Reviewing the directives for State and local agencies and how MSDE has supported the Blueprint Implementation Plan development process.*

# The Initial Blueprint Implementation Plan

- Education Article §5-404 requires **each local education agency (LEA), and other State and local government units, to develop an Implementation Plan.** Implementation Plans shall describe the goals, objectives, and **strategies that will be used to improve student achievement** and meet the Blueprint for Maryland's Future recommendations for each segment of the student population.
  - The Initial Implementation Plan should address the **planning and implementation work that began in 2021-22 and ends with 2023-24.**
  - The initial submission was due March 15, 2023.
  - A second submission of LEA Blueprint Implementation Plans is tentatively scheduled for March 2024 and will address 2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27. **This submission will require new information as well as updates to the initial plan.**

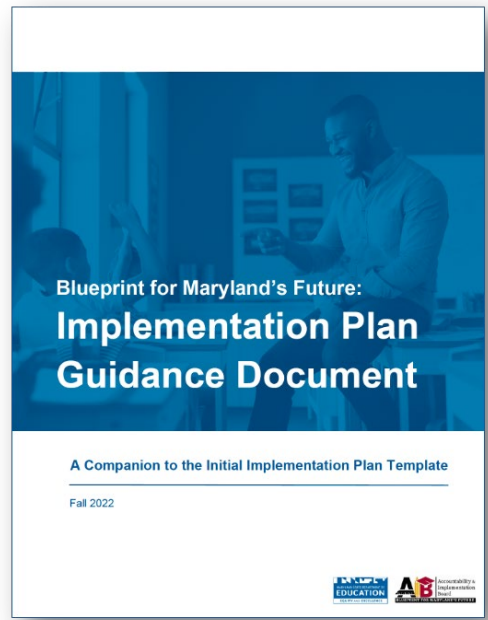
# MSDE's Role in Blueprint Implementation Plans

- MSDE developed a series of materials connected to the LEA Blueprint Implementation Plans to support LEAs in operationalizing the Blueprint.
  - **Each question proposed in the Blueprint Implementation Plan Template aids the Department and the LEAs in achieving its mission to fulfill these responsibilities.**
- Additionally, MSDE is supporting the Implementation Plan process through:
  - **Providing individualized support to LEAs to aid in developing individual Blueprint Implementation Plans.**
  - **Reviewing and recommending for approval of LEA's Blueprint Implementation Plans to the AIB.**
  - **Supporting, progress monitoring, and holding LEAs accountable for implementing the Blueprint as described in their plans and required by legislation.**
  - **Providing annual recommendations for the continued access to funding and other resources, based on annual progress.**
  - **Providing detailed and timely reporting on Blueprint progress to stakeholders (State Board of Education, AIB, Governor, General Assembly, advocates, community members, etc.).**

# Development of Blueprint Implementation Documents

- At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, MSDE submitted its proposed **Criteria for Success to the AIB to be used to recommend approval or disapproval of LEA Blueprint Implementation Plans.**
- In addition to the Criteria for Success, MSDE also included a **proposed Blueprint Implementation Plan Template and supporting documents** that each LEA would use to develop and submit their Blueprint Implementation Plans.
  - MSDE also recommended that Implementation Plans be submitted over time in parts (rather than a 10-year plan all at once), to allow LEAs to thoughtfully develop, implement, and engage their communities on each aspect of their Blueprint plans, dedicating high-quality time and attention.
- MSDE engaged in conversations with the AIB to **revise and evolve the Plan Template and documents.**
- **The AIB adopted the LEA Blueprint Implementation Plan Template, corresponding Criteria for Success, and other documents on December 1, 2022.**

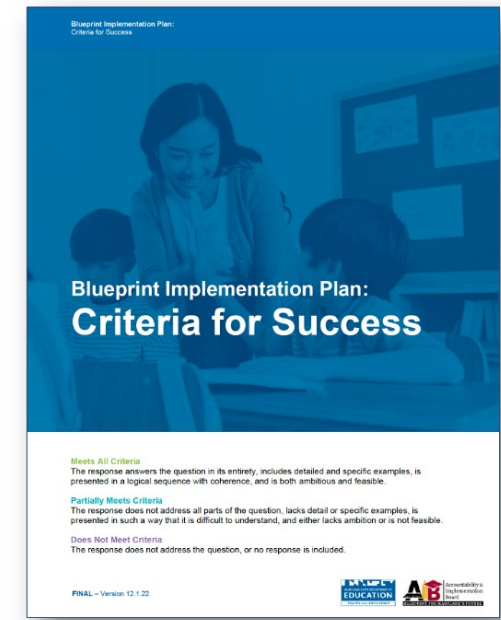
# Blueprint Implementation Planning Materials



Explains how to utilize the materials for Blueprint implementation planning, including how they were developed and the support available to LEAs throughout the planning process.



Provides a series of questions for each Pillar that will guide an LEA in developing its plan to successfully implement the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. LEAs will utilize this Template to submit plans.



Lists the criteria that will be used to approve an LEA's Blueprint Implementation Plan. Each criterion connects to a set of questions in the Blueprint Implementation Plan Template.



## Scaffolded Questions

- Questions build up to and support bigger ideas while allowing for a greater focus on the pre-conditions or discrete actions necessary to develop a comprehensive strategy or plan.
- Prompts the LEA to consider all implications of implementing a specific initiative.
- Supports the LEA in developing its plan to achieve the intended outcomes of the Blueprint.

**1. Increasing Tier I Participation:** Describe how the school system will increase participation among eligible Tier I 3- and 4-year-olds in Pre-K so that all 4-year-old children and nearly all 3-year-old children from low-income families who wish to enroll in full-day Pre-K shall be served by FY 25 and FY 32, respectively. Identify the challenges that prevent families from enrolling students or the school system from meeting the enrollment need and the strategies the school system will utilize to overcome the identified challenges. Consider challenges associated with priority groups (children with disabilities, youth experiencing homelessness, and English learners) as well as those who require transportation.

*Response here...*

**Linked Artifacts:**

**2. Communication and Outreach:** How will the school system communicate with families about the opportunity to enroll in Pre-K? Discuss the timeline, including frequency and method, of outreach efforts to ensure all families of eligible three- and four-year-olds know what Pre-K options are available to them and are encouraged to participate. What strategies will the school system intentionally use to recruit Tier I students, students with disabilities, youth experiencing homelessness, and English learners? When identifying strategies, consider how the school system will work with the following:

- Local health and social services
- Regional child care resource centers
- Local Early Childhood Advisory Council

*Response here...*

**Linked Artifacts:**

## Criteria for Success

- For an LEA’s Initial Blueprint Implementation Plan to be approved, it must meet all criteria listed in the Criteria for Success.
- To obtain a rating of “Meets Criteria,” responses should:
  - Provide detailed and specific answers to every aspect of the Implementation Plan question,
  - Present responses in a logical sequence and with coherence, and
  - Provide activities and goals that are both ambitious and feasible.

Sections	Meets Criteria			Criteria for Success	Reviewers' Feedback
	Yes	Partially	No		
1.1.1 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School system shows a detailed understanding of the challenges that prevent families from enrolling eligible Tier I students—especially those from the priority groups listed—in Pre-K and outlines a comprehensive set of strategies to overcome these challenges, and (if responding) increase participation among eligible Tier II students to foster socioeconomic diversity in prekindergarten classrooms.	
1.1.1 4-5 Ⓢ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School system clearly identifies the broad range of operational changes required to support the expansion of Pre-K, includes a comprehensive explanation of how Pre-K expansion will be incorporated into short and long-term planning, and lists the current and projected Pre-K enrollment slots cut by age, tier, and demographics.	
1.1.3 6-7 Ⓢ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	School system shows a distribution of public and private Pre-K slots that matches the annual targets set by the Blueprint or describes the barriers to meeting the established targets for private seats, provides concrete strategies for meeting the targets, and detailed and reasonable explanations to address barriers that may prevent the school system from meeting the Blueprint target.	

# Meaningful Engagement with Stakeholders

- As the implementation of the Blueprint affects many different stakeholders of the educational community at large, **each LEA should actively engage its community about how the district will implement the Blueprint** and what the implications are for everyone involved.
  - The LEA Blueprint Implementation Plan Template was **designed so that engagement was a crucial component** in each Pillar, ensuring that **stakeholders who have been historically underserved are included and empowered** through this process.
- Examples of **opportunities where the LEA can engage with stakeholders throughout the plan development process** and beyond include:
  - **Publication of the draft Blueprint Implementation Plan feedback**
  - **Public submission of comments** and questions
  - **Focus groups to gather anecdotal feedback** related to perceptions, interests, and needs
  - **Surveys to collect quantitative and qualitative data** from broader groups of stakeholders
  - **Open meetings and town halls** to review plans, solicit feedback, and clarify information



# MSDE's Collaboration with the Accountability and Implementation Board and Support for Local Education Agencies

1. Overview of Blueprint Implementation Plan Expectations
2. **MSDE's Collaboration with the AIB and Support for LEAs**
3. MSDE's Implementation Plan
4. Next Steps to Support Blueprint Implementation

*Throughout the Blueprint Implementation Plan development process, MSDE has engaged in near constant communication with the AIB and each LEA.*

# Blueprint Implementation Technical Assistance

- In the fall of 2022, MSDE started providing a comprehensive series of technical assistance and support sessions in the abbreviated three-month timeline.
- MSDE, in collaboration with AIB, hosted a series of information sessions, workshops, cross-district collaboration sessions, open office hours, and other events.
  - These covered topics including background information on the Blueprint and project management, information and collaboration sessions by pillar, draft implementation plan review sessions, individual LEA support sessions, as well as regular office hours throughout the implementation plan development period.
- Each LEA received detailed individualized feedback on their draft implementation plans through their individual LEA support sessions.



# Technical Assistance and Support Prior to Submission



## General Information Session

This session is designed to help LEAs develop a strategy to create, implement, and monitor Initial Blueprint Implementation Plans.

It also provides pillar-specific guidance for responding to the questions in each Pillar.

## Pillar Sessions

Sessions are designed to provide LEAs with opportunities to clarify their understanding of the questions and identify areas of needed support.

MSDE will provide guidance and support in response to identified needs.

## Plan Development Sessions


These sessions will provide LEAs with opportunities to collaborate with MSDE and AIB staff and their peers from other districts to develop, revise, and refine their Initial Blueprint Implementation Plans.

## Individual LEA Meetings

MSDE and AIB staff will meet individually with each LEA regarding the status of its Plan development and any tailored support that may be needed to meet the submission deadline.

## Weekly Office Hours

Office hours will provide individual LEAs with a consistent, scheduled opportunity to meet with MSDE and AIB staff for thought partnership, clarification, and feedback.

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# MSDE's Implementation Plan

*MSDE submitted its Blueprint Implementation Plan on March 15, 2023, and includes the Department's actions and plan to support the Blueprint across Maryland.*

# Ongoing Activities to Implement the Blueprint

- MSDE has taken a leading role in supporting the **Blueprint implementation planning for all state and local entities in Maryland, especially each of the 24 local education agencies (LEAs).**
- MSDE took the initiative to **deliver a series of deep dive presentations to the AIB, State Board of Education, and public at-large that provide in-depth discussions of the Blueprint requirements and MSDE's current implementation efforts.**
- To further assist the coordination of initiatives across state agencies, MSDE **produced a series of in-depth reports** that have been submitted to the AIB, the Maryland General Assembly, the Governor, and other stakeholders.
  - The series of MSDE Blueprint Reports include topics such as **Neighborhood Indicators of Poverty, Ninth Grade Tracker, the Workgroup on English Learners in Public Schools, College and Career Readiness: Roadmap to Implementation, and Pre-K Implementation Planning.**
  - These reports are also all available on MSDE's Blueprint website:  
[blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/reports](https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/reports).




# MSDE's Implementation Plan (1 of 2)

- MSDE's Blueprint Implementation Plan **focuses on utilizing equitable decision making to deliver greater opportunities for all students** and the promise of a better future to every Maryland child.
  - **Equity is not an add-on, but instead must be a running thread in the Department and everything it does.**
- The MSDE Implementation Plan provides a **detailed accounting of all MSDE's activities to date, as well as future plans**, to support the implementation of the Blueprint to ensure that **every Maryland student receives a world-class education**, regardless of family income, race, ethnicity, gender, address, socioeconomic status, or the language spoken in the student's home, and/or ability.
- The Implementation Plan also **incorporates a wide breadth of Implementation Artifacts** that include materials such as legislative reports, presentations, guidance documents, technical assistance materials, and success stories from across the state.

# MSDE's Implementation Plan (2 of 2)

- The Implementation Plan includes a **Plan Document** for each **Objective**, which consists of a **list of each of the tasks** that MSDE is responsible to complete, a **description of MSDE Actions to Implement the Blueprint** to date, descriptions about a **set of Implementation Artifacts**, and MSDE's **Future Implementation Steps**.
- The **MSDE Blueprint Implementation Plan** is available at [bit.ly/BlueprintPlanMSDE](https://bit.ly/BlueprintPlanMSDE).
  - Within the overarching MSDE Plan folder, you will find a folder for each of the five Pillars of the Blueprint. Inside each of those is another set of folders for each Objective within that Pillar. These Objective folders contain the plan document for that objective, as well as all of the relevant Implementation Artifacts.


Maryland State Department of Education:  
Blueprint Implementation Plan

**Objective 4.2: Improve the Education of English Learners**

**Objective 4.2: Improve the Education of English Learners (ELs)**

**MSDE Tasks**

Task ID	Requirement
4.2.1	Establish a workgroup to collect student data and review instructional methods and services provided to English learners
4.2.1(a)	WEL shall collect data on the number and percent of EL students at each P-12 school, the services available to them; and the accessibility of P-12 teachers, administrators, and staff to EL students and their families
4.2.1(b)	WEL shall review methods of teaching and providing services to EL students in public P-12 schools in the State
4.2.1(c)	WEL shall make recommendations on improving the education of EL students in P-12 schools in the State, including whether additional funding should be provided and addressing learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
4.2.1(d)	WEL shall identify professional responsibilities and criteria for EL family coordinators
4.2.2	WEL shall submit a final report with its findings and recommendations, including addressing learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, by 12/1/22 (AIB requested early submission by 11/1/22)
4.2.2(b)	MSDE and LEAs shall implement WEL's recommendations to improve the education of EL students in Maryland P-12 schools

**MSDE Actions to Implement the Blueprint**

English learners are the fastest growing student subgroup in Maryland's public schools – growing from 56,072 English learners in 2014 to 105,653 in 2023. ELs in Maryland make up 12 percent of the total grade K-12 student population. The success of English learners will determine Maryland's future success. MSDE believes that multilingualism is an asset and a highly sought-after skill in the educational and professional realm. As part of MSDE's effort to transition to asset-based terminology, this plan will use multilingual learner and English learner interchangeably as the agency begins to adapt the term, multilingual learner.

With its emphasis on equity, the Blueprint established the Workgroup on English Learners in Public Schools in 2021 and charged it to study the availability of and access to resources for English learners and their families and make recommendations that will accelerate their academic achievement. Specifically, the Blueprint charged the Workgroup to:

- Collect data on services available to English learners (ELs) in the State and the effectiveness of the services,
- Review methods of teaching and providing other services to ELs, and

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# Next Steps to Support Blueprint Implementation

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*MSDE will continue to lead the charge to support each State and local entity to implement the various programs and initiatives of the Blueprint.*

# Future Implementation Steps

As MSDE continues to support the implementation of the Blueprint across Maryland, MSDE will:

- **Facilitate reviews of each LEA Blueprint Implementation Plan** in March – June 2023 by utilizing teams of experts who have participated in rigorous calibration training.
- **Provide LEAs with a summary of feedback for each Pillar.** LEAs that do not meet the criteria to be recommended for approval will be required to revise and resubmit their plans.
- **Continue to provide targeted technical assistance to LEAs** as they implement their plans and assist them with developing their plans for the March 2024 submission.
- **Adjust, progress monitor, and refine the MSDE Blueprint Implementation Plan** based on student data and stakeholder feedback.

# Plan Review and Revision after Submission



**Convene Review Teams**

**March 2023**

MSDE facilitates a review process to review Initial Blueprint Implementation Plans using the Criteria for Success approved by AIB.

**Review Plans**

**March – June 2023**

Review teams will determine if LEA Plans meet all criteria included in the Criteria for Success. Review teams will provide LEAs with actionable feedback and a revision period for Plans that do not meet all criteria.

**Revise Plans**

**March – June 2023**

If applicable, LEAs will revise Plans based on the feedback provided by the review teams and resubmit Plans by the established timeline.

**Recommend Approval of Plans**

**By June 2023**

MSDE recommends Initial Blueprint Implementation Plans to the AIB for approval.

**Approve Plans**

**By July 2023**

AIB approves Initial Blueprint Implementation Plans.



This process may repeat as necessary.

# Review Teams

- **Multiple teams of internal and external reviewers** with relevant expertise and field experience.
  - MSDE staff, members of MSDE’s Expert Review Team, and leading national and local education experts and practitioners
- **Training provided to reviewers:**
  - **Best practices** for independent and team reviews
  - **Norming and calibration**
  - **Building consensus** and providing actionable feedback
- Every plan will be **read by multiple teams** before recommending approval.



# Blueprint Implementation Plan Timeline



# Questions?