

## Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. State Superintendent of Schools

**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

**DATE:** June 22, 2021

**SUBJECT:** The Educator Application and Certification Hub

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to present information regarding the development of The Educator Application and Certification Hub (TEACH) of Maryland.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Educator Information System was established in 2005 as an electronic repository for the certification records of Maryland educators. The outdated system is dependent on paper-based processes and requires specialized programming to modify content. In April 2020, the MSDE partnered with inLumon, a Nevada-based information technology company specializing in the development of licensing systems throughout the United States, to develop a fully automated certification system for Maryland educators.

inLumon has developed customized licensing systems for over 30 government regulatory agencies, state licensing boards, and commissions, which includes educator licensing systems in Nevada, Nebraska, and Delaware. inLumon's unique and highly adaptable licensing system platform is a commercial software that is fully customizable and configurable. The modernized platform allows the flexibility to accommodate future regulatory and business process changes inherent in government operations. The system will be configured to support the MSDE's data collection requirements and unique business workflows, and will include portals for MSDE staff, local school system certification partners, educators, and the public.

The MSDE has worked closely with local school system certification partners to identify the essential components and functionality required of a Maryland certification system to ensure an efficient, user-friendly experience for educators. The newly developed system has been branded as The Educator Application and Certification Hub and will replace the Educator Information System in the fall of 2021.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This update provides information regarding the development of The Educator Application and Certification Hub (TEACH) of Maryland. The MSDE is planning to launch TEACH in the fall of 2021.

KBS:km

# TEACH Maryland! The Educator Application and Certification Hub



Maryland State Board of Education
June 22, 2021



#### **Legacy Educator Information System**

 Built in 2005 on a platform that requires advanced knowledge of programming for all modifications

Acts as a document repository and database

- Functions only in Internet Explorer, discontinued by Microsoft in 2021
- Educator portal does not include an online application requiring all applicants to complete a paper application.



## **Initial Planning**

- Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) began researching a new educator certification system in 2017
- MSDE consulted with local school system (LSS) certification partners to determine the essentials of a state of the art certification system for Maryland
- Dialogued with states that had successfully implemented a robust certification system
- Developed a comprehensive Response for Proposals in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology, business services, and senior leadership



#### Development of a New System

- inLumon is a Nevada-based software company with experience implementing 30+ licensing solutions in government regulatory agencies
- Platform is completely customizable and configurable based on customer need
- Implementation of educator licensing systems in Nevada, Nebraska, and Delaware
- Configurable web portals that provide access to:
  - MSDE office of certification
  - Local school systems
  - Applicants/certificate holders
  - The public

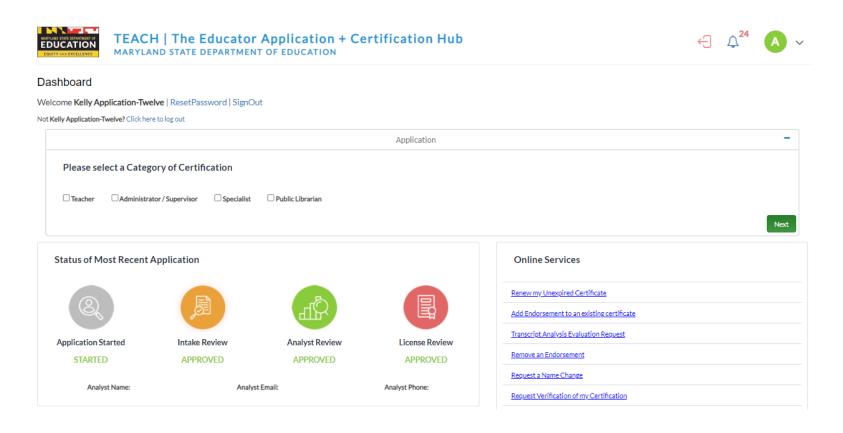


## Reporting

- Customized reports exclusively designed for MSDE and LSSs
  - Certification billing
  - Educators with expiring certificates
  - LSS educators by type of certificate
  - Productivity of MSDE/LSS certification staff
  - Disciplinary actions taken
- Ad hoc reporting
  - On demand data exports
  - Allows MSDE staff with the correct permissions to query any field in the system



# Introducing The Educator Application + Certification Hub (TEACH)





#### **Transition**

- TEACH launch scheduled for 2021
- Legacy system will be briefly shut down for data transfer and testing in the production environment
- Messaging will be provided on the MSDE website and legacy educator portal prior to transition and throughout
- Training will be provided to LSS offices of certification before, during, and after the release of the new system
- Regional, in-person and virtual training will be available to LSSs
- Existing certificate holders and applicants will be directed to register when logging into TEACH for the first time



# TEACHIN MARYLAND