



**PSSAM**  
Public School Superintendents' Association  
OF MARYLAND

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**BILL:** HB 1196

**TITLE:** County Boards of Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future  
Implementation Coordinator – Salary Grant

**DATE:** March 7, 2023

**POSITION:** Support

**COMMITTEE:** House Appropriations Committee

**CONTACT:** Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

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The Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** House Bill 1196.

This bill would provide a \$150,000 State grant to each Local Education Agency for fiscal years 2025 and fiscal 2026 for the personnel costs for a Blueprint Implementation Coordinator (IC).

In the final version of the Blueprint legislation (HB 1300/2020), the Legislature required the local governing body and the LEA to jointly designate Blueprint Coordinators. The requirement was that this position would be required through fiscal 2025, which was subsequently changed to fiscal 2026 during the 2021 session (HB 1372). The IC position was also mandated without an identified funding source. Lastly, the position was to be created by July 1, 2021; all districts were in compliance within one or two months of that deadline.

In July of 2021, the role of the coordinators was unclear, and many districts assigned this responsibility to existing staff. Now, eighteen months later, many of the coordinators are still wearing multiple hats in their districts, and have significant responsibilities in addition to the Blueprint work. This is especially challenging in smaller districts with fewer staff and resources. For example, among the ICs there are Chief Financial Officers, Chief Administration Officers, and two or three Directors of Assessment and Reporting.

Having staff serve as the IC seemed reasonable when we (PSSAM) first started convening this group in 2021. At that point, we were meeting about once a month, we were waiting for the AIB to be named, and the new State Superintendent was still settling in. As the AIB and MSDE geared up, meeting frequency increased, and going back to September 2021, there have been roughly 71 meetings, (excluding duplicate sessions), the bulk of which occurred beginning July 2022, when there were roughly 62 meetings. As you can see, the commitment to the Blueprint work has been immense.

The designation of ICs has created an equity issue between smaller and larger systems. Even after adjusting for the enrollment of the districts -- the planning and implementation has to be done, regardless of if you are a district with 200,000 students or 2,000 students. As we have moved through the initial year of the Blueprint, it is exceptionally clear that these ICs are integral for the proper implementation with fidelity. We recognize that there are many staff that are overworked, but we feel it is appropriate to request a carve-out for the salaries of the ICs, especially since the General Assembly mandated the position. We believe a line item in the budget would provide an equitable funding opportunity for all districts to hire and employ a full-time Blueprint Coordinator.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** House Bill 1196 and requests a favorable report.