



House Bill 1082 - Blueprint for Maryland's Future Implementation – Funding and Independent Evaluation – Alterations Appropriations – February 28, 2024, 1 p.m. Position: Favorable

The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future's expansive and comprehensive approach to transforming education requires significant attention to the implementation at the state and local levels. One of the shortcomings of the original legislation is a lack of attention to the staffing and support mechanisms necessary, particularly at the level of the local school district, to make sure that all the goals of each pillar within the blueprint are fully executed. MOST and MD4CS support House Bill 1082 for recognizing the need for each district to have funding for at least one full-time position dedicated to translating the Blueprint requirements at the local level. It makes sense that the state shares the burden of these positions with the LEAs. And, with the state contribution to this salaried position we also encourage there be requirements that this role is indeed fully dedicated to the Blueprint work and not spread across additional program supervision. Currently, many of the local Blueprint supervisors are also tasked with monitoring Title I, student and family support, and other programs. Depending on the size of the district, the demands of Blueprint implementation and monitoring may require more than one position. Also this funding needs to be made permanent and adjust with inflation.

We applaud Delegates Smith for sponsoring this legislation and encourage the Appropriations committee to provide a favorable report to House Bill 1082.

Ellie Mitchell, & Executive Director, MOST Network/MD4CS, emitchell@mostnetwork.org

Maryland Out of School Time Network / Maryland Coalition for Community Schools

1500 Union Ave / Suite 2300
Baltimore MD 21211 / 410 374-7692
www.mostnetwork.org