

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of SB 906- K-12 Artificial Intelligence Act

March 7, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 906, the K-12 Artificial Intelligence Act. This legislation marks a critical step in ensuring that Maryland's public schools proactively and responsibly integrate artificial intelligence (AI) into education, preparing students for the future workforce while equipping educators with the necessary tools and knowledge.

Over the past year, AI has surged across industries, including education. In the classroom, AI offers unparalleled opportunities:

- **For educators**, AI can streamline administrative tasks such as lesson planning, grading, and assessments, allowing educators to focus on student engagement.
- **For students**, AI-powered tutoring provides personalized, one-on-one learning support, enhancing student's learning outcomes.¹
- **For schools**, AI-driven tools expand access to language learning, career exploration, and adaptive instruction, ensuring that every student, regardless of background or ability, receives a high-quality education.²

However, with such opportunities come significant risks. AI tools like OpenAI's ChatGPT have raised concerns about bias, cybersecurity, and misinformation. Without proper oversight, AI can reinforce inequities, compromise student data privacy, and lead to overreliance on automated systems. Schools may struggle to integrate AI effectively and ethically without clear policies, training, and accountability measures.

SB 906 ensures Maryland remains ahead of the curve by establishing clear guidelines, providing necessary support, and safeguarding responsible AI use in classrooms. SB906 will:

¹ Colordao AI in K-12 Education_December 2024.pdf

² https://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Colorado-Roadmap-for-AI-in-K-12-Education_August-2024.pdf

- 1) **Establish the AI in Education Task Force**, composed of educators, students, policymakers, and stakeholders, to study AI's role in Maryland schools and recommend responsible implementation in K-12 curriculum and career programs.
- 2) **Require the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)** to collaborate with the State Board and AI Task Force to develop statewide AI guidelines by **March 1, 2027**, ensuring ethical, student-centered, and evidence-based AI use in education.
- 3) **Direct the development of AI literacy programs by June 1, 2026**, providing teachers and administrators with training, courses, and monthly webinars.
- 4) **Ensure transparency and accountability** by requiring the Department of Education to publish AI guidance online and mandating county boards to report on AI integration and compliance with data privacy laws. County boards must submit AI implementation reports to the Department of Education by **July 1, 2026**, with final findings presented to the Maryland General Assembly by **August 1, 2026**.

Across the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states, several have already taken action to establish AI guidance for education. Delaware, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Mississippi have implemented AI policies or guidelines. Tennessee has enacted legislation requiring the development of AI guidance, while Texas and Louisiana have established task forces to shape their policies. In contrast, Maryland, along with Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, currently lacks any formal AI guidance for K-12 education.³


Without a clear and strategic plan for AI integration, Maryland risks falling behind, leaving students underprepared for an evolving workforce and teachers struggling to adapt to technology-driven classrooms. SB 906 ensures Maryland leads the way in fostering an equitable and innovative education system.

I respectfully request a favorable report on **SB 906** to position Maryland as a leader in AI-driven education.

Sincerely,



Senator Katie Fry Hester
Howard & Montgomery Counties

³  CSG AI Panel_ Education FINAL.pptx