

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 0906- Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines, Professional Development, and Task Force

DATE: March 07, 2025

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Board of Education support House Bill (HB) 1391 - *Education - Artificial Intelligence - Guidelines, Professional Development, and Task Force*. MSDE appreciates the sponsor's recognition of the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and the need for a proactive, collaborative approach to harnessing its potential benefits while mitigating risks. We also appreciate the sponsor working with us to make forthcoming amendments to bolster the bill.

MSDE believes SB0906 provides a strong framework for this important work by:

- Requiring MSDE, in consultation with the State Board and a diverse task force, to develop comprehensive AI guidelines and implementation strategies for schools
- Mandating professional development to build educator capacity to effectively leverage AI
- Establishing regular reporting to ensure transparency and accountability
- Emphasizing the integration of AI literacy as a key workforce preparation component

With the following amendments that the sponsor has agreed to bring forward, we believe SB0906 can position Maryland as a national leader in the responsible use of AI in education:

1. On page 2, lines 10-13, change the deadline for developing AI guidance from August 1, 2026 to March 1, 2027. This will provide MSDE and the task force adequate time to incorporate the task force's final recommendations, due December 1, 2026, into the guidance. In addition, the modified timeline will help MSDE and the Local Education Agencies to develop and implement a professional development and training plan for the 2027-2028 school year.
2. Remove the requirement for MSDE and the Department of Information Technology to develop and annually update an AI tools list (page 2, lines 27-30 and page 3, lines 1-3). Instead, MSDE will maintain and expand its existing AI resources hub (located at <https://msde.instructure.com/courses/1115/pages/introduction-to-artificial-intelligence>) which includes robust AI lesson plans, AI educational resources, and AI policies for school districts, teachers, and parents.
3. Remove references to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee (page 3, lines 7-9). MSDE should be the entity responsible for ensuring AI literacy in workforce preparation, in

collaboration with the University System of Maryland's Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCCE) and the Governor's Workforce Development Board. MCCE and the Board should also be represented on the AI in Education Task Force.

4. Move the deadline for MSDE ensuring AI literacy in workforce preparation from October 1, 2025 to a date in mid-2026 to provide sufficient implementation time.

To effectively implement the provisions of SB0906 with these amendments, MSDE respectfully requests four additional positions:

- One (1) Grade 22 AI Technical Specialist to support the AI team in assessing tools for viability, provide technical expertise to local school systems, and assist with AI tool implementation in MSDE digital learning and CTE programs.
- One (1) Grade 22 AI Digital Learning Staff to develop AI curriculum guidance and support local implementation.
- One (1) Grade 22 Coordinator of K-8 Computer Science to support AI integration into PK-8 Computer Science standards, coordinate related professional development, collaborate on AI tool approval, assist the AI task force, and build CTE pathways to ensure workforce readiness.
- One (1) contractual Administrative Assistant to support task force logistics, procurement processes, and data collection whose term coincides with the existence of the Task Force named in the bill.

In addition, MSDE requests an allocation of \$100,000 to support the testing and implementation of AI tools within the Department. This will ensure MSDE is well-equipped to provide informed guidance and support to local school systems.

With these amendments, additional staffing, and funding, MSDE strongly supports SB0906 and appreciates the sponsor's leadership on this critical issue. AI is rapidly reshaping our world, and Maryland schools must be equipped to prepare students for this new reality. SB0906 provides a collaborative path forward that balances innovation with safeguards, state guidance with local flexibility, and aspiration with implementation realities. We look forward to working with the sponsor and the Committee to refine and advance this important legislation.

Lastly, we would like to note that the fiscal note submitted to DLS a couple weeks ago is out of date and does not reflect the accurate fiscal or operational cost MSDE will incur with the amended bill. The initial fiscal note said MSDE would require seven new staff members to complete this work, and as we stated earlier, MSDE now believes four new staff members will be needed to support the work laid out in the amended version of SB0906.

For further information or to discuss the proposed amendments, please contact Dr. Akilah Alleyne (Executive Director of Government Affairs) at 410-767-0504 or akilah.alleyne@maryland.gov.