



BLUEPRINT FOR
Maryland's Future

Accountability &
Implementation Board

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- BILL:** Senate Bill 311
- TITLE:** Education - The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Revisions
- SPONSOR:** Senate President (By Request - Accountability and Implementation Board)
- HEARING DATE:** February 18, 2026
- COMMITTEE:** Education, Energy, and the Environment
- POSITION:** **SUPPORT with Amendments**

The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 311 – Education – The Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Revisions**, which makes legislative changes essential to the successful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

The AIB is steadfast in ensuring equal access to a high-quality education with equitable outcomes for each Maryland student, regardless of their circumstance or unique characteristics. The AIB remains committed to implementing the Blueprint with fidelity to the law and towards the achievement of the Blueprint's intended objectives. As the Blueprint nears completion of the fourth full year of implementation, the AIB recently released an updated [one-pager](#) that highlights Statewide Blueprint implementation progress. In addition, the AIB is pleased to announce the release of [LEA one-pagers](#) that highlights their progress in implementing the Blueprint.

In service to our charge, the Board diligently works collaboratively and with a high level of responsiveness with our partners to ensure effective and efficient implementation. The AIB well understands that in Maryland, one size does not fit all. The Board provides flexibility whenever possible when it is within its statutory authority and without sacrificing progress in achieving the Blueprint's goals. As an example of this commitment to partnership and flexibility, the AIB recently adopted changes to the Minimum School Funding Joint Policy in partnership with the State Board of Education and at the request of the 24 superintendents to give local education agencies (LEAs) an additional year, until Fiscal Year (FY) 2028, to fully meet the requirement.

The bill before you is another example of the AIB's commitment to partnership and flexibility. It moves forward legislative changes developed in response to suggestions from a broad array of local and



State implementation partners, agencies, organizations, and interest holders. The suggestions were gathered in the course of the AIB's annual process to update the [Blueprint Comprehensive Plan in 2025](#). The Board carefully evaluated each suggestion and ultimately adopted those which streamlined and simplified implementation for practitioners while sustaining or accelerating progress. The legislation will expand pathways for teachers to demonstrate readiness for certification, delay the requirement for new principals to achieve National Board Certification (NBC), ensure statewide uniformity in the way dual enrollment courses taken during high school are offered, streamline oversight of Career and Technical Education (CTE), extend the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) hold harmless provision in the compensatory education formula enrollment count to provide additional time to identify a more accurate methodology, provide greater flexibility for community schools to meet the academic needs of our most under-resourced students, and remove an unnecessary reporting requirement for LEAs. Each specific provision is summarized, by Blueprint pillar, below.

Pillar 2 - High Quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders

Teacher Preparation and Recruitment *

- A. Clarifies that Maryland teacher preparation programs may offer students seeking an initial Maryland teacher license their own portfolio assessment (in lieu of edTPA) if the program is either nationally accredited OR Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) approved
- B. Allows registered apprentices who successfully complete an MSDE-sponsored teacher apprenticeship program to provide the apprenticeship certificate in place of taking a test of teaching ability
- C. Modifies the out-of-state teacher requirement to pass edTPA or NBC) to also include the option of having two (2) years of effective evaluations

* MSDE will submit technical amendments that provide greater clarity and consistency to these provisions; the AIB agrees with and supports these amendments.

Career Ladder

- A. Delays the requirement that a teacher must hold NBC before becoming a newly licensed principal from beginning July 1, 2029 to July 1, 2034

Pillar 3 - College and Career Readiness

Dual Enrollment

- A. Extends, from FY 2027 to FY 2030, the statutory authority of the AIB and the State Board of Education to require a minimum number and type of dual enrollment courses an LEA must offer students who have met the Blueprint's college and career ready (CCR) standard

Career and Technical Education Committee

- A. Repeals the CTE Committee's Skills Standards Advisory Committee and shifts these responsibilities to the CTE Committee

- B. Makes changes to the CTE Committee by clarifying its purpose and role and updating language to align to the State's workforce needs and more closely integrate training and education with the State's industries.

Pillar 4 - More Resources for Students to Be Successful

Compensatory Education Formula

- A. Maintains the current enrollment count methodology used to calculate compensatory education enrollment for LEAs participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) through FY 2027*, which provides reliability in funding for high-needs student populations until a more accurate methodology is identified (also known as the CEP "hold harmless" provision). The Governor's FY 2027 allowance includes funds to implement this provision.

* AIB is proposing amendments that will extend these provisions for two (2) years, through FY 2028, which was the original intent of the AIB when it adopted this legislative recommendation in November, 2025.

Concentration of Poverty Grants

- A. Permanently authorizes LEAs to use Concentration of Poverty Personnel and Per Pupil Grant funds in community schools to provide the programs required under COMAR Title 13A. Subtitle 04, inclusive of requirements for Fine Arts (13A.04.16.01)(currently sunsets after FY 2027)

- B. Expands the definition of wraparound services for evidence-based in-school and in-person tutoring during the school day to include other evidence-based academic interventions

Pillar 5 - Governance and Accountability

Reporting

- A. Repeals the requirement that LEAs submit the Technology Spending Report annually

The AIB remains steadfast in its commitment to implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future with fidelity and as intended by the law and, therefore, urges a **FAVORABLE** report for **Senate Bill 311**. For more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at joy.schaefer@maryland.gov or (410) 991-7623.