

March 4, 2021
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Bill: SB0915
Support

TESTIMONY

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Subject: [SB0915](#) -The Blueprint for Maryland's Future - Performance Standards - Clarifications
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: [Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee](#)

Leaders of Tomorrow Youth Center, Inc (LTYC) is an arts education non profit organization that serves multiple counties in Maryland that cultivates positive social development, academic success, and creativity in the minds of youth today.

LTYC strongly supports the approval of SB 915-The Blueprint for Maryland's Future-Performance Standards-Clarifications as a technical amendment to HB1300-Blueprint for Maryland's Future to clarify the use of the term "performance standards" by ensuring that the foundation of a world-class education system in Maryland under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future for education will require that is sufficient to enable students to achieve the State's performance standards, as required in [Maryland COMAR Regulations, Title 13A State Board of Education](#).

LTYC believes that the approval of this technical amendment will more clearly define performance standards, tied to systematic accountability throughout state and local government not just within state and local boards of education and their administrations, but through the General Assembly [Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review \(AELR\)](#) and the recently created Accountability and Implementation Board. We also believe this technical change is consistent with [Maryland's ESSA Plan approved by the USDE](#) to ensure all students within all student groups have access to a well-rounded curriculum in all grades.

This amendment is specifically important to our mission and work because COMAR Title 13A includes the arts. The arts are needed to ensure that each student receives a well rounded education. In order to provide quality instruction, programming and resources in the arts, adequate funding is needed in Maryland schools. LTYC supports this amendment, as it is needed to adequately support our students and provide them with the resources they need. Arts education is critical to every young person's development-academically, socially, emotionally, mentally and more.

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