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Arts Every Day is a 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit organization;  
all donations are tax-deductible.

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March 5, 2021

**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](#)

Arts Every Day is grateful for Senator McCray bringing this important amendment forward. Arts Every Day is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving student access to sequential arts instruction, arts integrated instruction, and arts and cultural partnerships in Baltimore City Public Schools. AED organizes and advocates for changes to district/state systems and policies to improve student access to certified fine arts teachers, partners with individual schools to support arts integration, and connects schools to Baltimore's thriving arts and cultural community.

Arts Every Day 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. This technical amendment will, correctly, clarify the use of the term "performance standards" by linking the resources necessary for schools to meet the standards and requirements laid out in the Maryland COMAR Regulations, Title 13A State Board of Education.

This is a necessary technical amendment, since COMAR provides a concise list of all of the components of a well-rounded, holistic educational experience for Maryland students, including the arts (COMAR 13A.04.16). Without this as clarification, the existing biases towards standardized tested subjects will continue to prevail. Students in Baltimore City and across Maryland will continue to be deprived both of their civil right to arts education under COMAR and of a necessary component of human development and 21st century preparedness.

Arts Every Day also believes this technical change is consistent with Maryland's ESSA Plan approved by the USDE to ensure all students within all student subgroups have access to a well-rounded curriculum in all grades. Arts Every Day believes that this technical amendment is consistent with a charge and intent of the Kirwan Commission 1) determining how the federal Every Student Succeeds Act will affect primary and secondary education in the State, and 2) determining how the State can better prepare students for postsecondary education and to be competitive in the workforce and with other high performing countries in the global economy.

**Therefore, we urge support of SB 915, to help ensure all students have access to a quality, well-rounded education.**

Sincerely,

Julia Di Bussolo, Executive Director