

State Superintendent of Schools



BILL:	Senate Bill 116	DATE:	February 3, 2022
SUBJECT:	Public Schools – Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts– Development of Content Standards and Implementation	COMMITTEE:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
<b>POSITION:</b>	Information Only		
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## **EXPLANATION:**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits information regarding **Senate Bill 116 Public Schools – Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts– Development of Content Standards and Implementation**, which would require the State Board of Education to develop content standards for inclusive and diverse English language arts to be implemented in all public schools by the 2023-2024 school year.

While the Department is supportive of the principles outlined in the requirements of the bill and the Department agrees that the concepts explored in SB 116 must be reflected in the fundamental premise of any English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum, MSDE is already required by the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future* to revise the ELA Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS) for alignment to the new CCR standard established by the Blueprint by the end of grade 10. MSDE, in partnership with teachers, supervisors, parents, institutes of higher education, and other stakeholders, will undertake a comprehensive review of the MCCRS that will include a review of inclusion and diversity in the standards as required by SB 116.

Unaligned processes and timelines for the completion of standards and curriculum revisions that are similar to Blueprint requirements would be counterproductive both to MSDE and to local school systems. MSDE would register strong concerns regarding the timeline and impact on school systems. SB 116 would allow for just eight months for school systems to complete the required curriculum development, training, and procurement of new materials. They will be required to:

- rewrite curriculum guides, including writing, reviewing, and piloting;
- procure new instructional materials aligned to the revised standards and curriculum; and
- train teachers in appropriate teaching pedagogy, implementation of the new curriculum, and implementation of new instructional materials.

Senate Bill 116 - Public Schools – Inclusive and Diverse English Language Arts – Development of Content Standards and Implementation

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

January 2022

MSDE assures the committee that all future revisions to the English Language Arts standards and frameworks will reflect the principles of inclusion and diversity as outlined in this legislation.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **Senate Bill 116.** Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or <u>ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov</u>, for any additional information.