

January 24, 2023

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

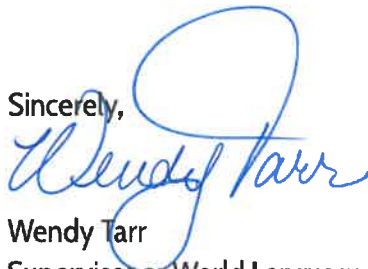
I urge you to support **HB-56 – Maryland Dual Language Education - Teacher Certification, Program Implementation, and Study** that will help implement the recommendations of the “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future: Workgroup on English Learners” that has recommended expanding dual language programs across Maryland. For well-implemented dual language programs, it is essential to have well prepared teachers.

This bill will recognize the important work of dual language/bilingual educators and will offer a pathway and process for teacher education programs to prepare teachers for bilingual programs. This bill will require the State Board of Education to adopt regulations for the certification of dual language teachers and the development of guidelines for dual language implementation to support teachers and teacher preparation programs.

Research demonstrates that dual language instruction (e.g. content taught in English and Spanish or another global language) offers life-long learning benefits for students learning English and those learning a global language as an additional language. Promoting bilingualism and biliteracy in Maryland’s schools will offer greater academic, cultural, linguistic, and future professional opportunities for the next generation of Marylanders. Furthermore, our nation’s national security and global competitiveness depends on our citizens’ ability to speak other languages.

I urge you to support HB-56.

Sincerely,



Wendy Tarr

Supervisor of World Languages
St. Mary’s County Public Schools, MD
wmtarr@smcps.org