



SmartStart Education
59 Elm Street, Suite 225
New Haven, CT 06510
888.262.1059

Dear Chairs Guzzone, Feldman, Barnes and Atterbeary, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committees, and House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees:

On behalf of SmartStart Education, we applaud the State of Maryland's continued dedication to advancing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. This framework represents a critical step in ensuring equitable access to high-quality education and addressing persistent learning gaps.

I am writing to express our support for SB 429/HB 504, the Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act, and respectfully urge the inclusion of the proposed amendment: on page 26, in line 13, following "(1)" insert "EVIDENCED-BASED, DURING THE SCHOOL DAY IN-PERSON TUTORING;" which we believe will further strengthen its impact on Maryland's students.

As a trusted partner in Maryland's education systems, SmartStart Education has witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of evidence-based tutoring delivered in person during the school day, helping students overcome academic challenges and achieve measurable success. Research and our own program data demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. For example, in one case study conducted at an elementary school in Glen Burnie, Maryland, students who received in-person, small-group tutoring achieved remarkable results. **Over a period of just 3.5 months, fourth-grade students demonstrated an average of 60% growth on pre- and post-curriculum assessments, while fifth-grade students achieved an average of 40% growth.** These academic gains highlight the potential of targeted, evidence-based interventions to significantly improve student outcomes.

The proposed amendment aligns with these proven strategies and offers an opportunity to provide Maryland's students with the tools they need to succeed. We respectfully request that the committee include this amendment, ensuring that evidence-based, during the school day, in-person tutoring remains a key component of the educational solutions supported by this legislation.

Thank you for your commitment to improving outcomes for our students. We welcome the opportunity to share additional insights or program data in support of this important effort.

Sincerely,

Isaak Aronson, PhD
CEO & Founder
SmartStart Education