

TO: House Ways and Means Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 1421 – Accountability and Implementation Board – Scope of Authority

DATE: March 6, 2025

POSITION: Letter of Information

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

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) would like to share the following information regarding **HB 1421**, which would embed the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) within the Maryland State Board of Education and transition many of the responsibilities charged to the AIB to the State Board.

Effective implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future in a way that improves outcomes for all students in Maryland is the top priority for the State Board of Education. While the State Board and Superintendent enjoy a highly productive relationship with the AIB, the governance structure outlined in the Blueprint has introduced overlapping authority which can be a challenge within the educational ecosystem.

We welcome the General Assembly's engagement in long-term efforts to streamline governance matters for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and public education in Maryland. Yet, the approach in HB 1421 needs thoughtful consideration of the full impacts of placing the AIB under the authority of the State Board and altering the scope of authority of that body. We do not believe this is the best approach to supporting effective implementation of the Blueprint at this time. The State Board and AIB are in the process of creating a formal agreement that will clarify each board's responsibilities. This agreement will provide greater role clarity for both boards and for our local school systems.

State Board and AIB leadership have worked closely in the last 18 months to remain aligned and ensure collaboration on critical issues involving the implementation of the Blueprint. The boards hold joint meetings on a quarterly basis and leadership meetings on a monthly basis to discuss policy and implementation, progress monitoring, and accountability matters of the Blueprint. We will continue to work in tandem to meet the charges entrusted to both the State Board and the AIB in the law.

The State Board requests that the committee consider this information as it deliberates **HB 1421**. Please contact Zach Hands, Executive Director of the State Board, at Zachary.hands1@maryland.gov or at 443-915-6094, if you would like any additional information.