



**HB 981 - Evaluation on Artificial Intelligence in Public Schools**  
**Ways & Means Committee**  
**February 24, 2025**  
**Position: Favorable**

*The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide organization dedicated to closing opportunity gaps by expanding both the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-aged young people. MOST serves as the backbone organization for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools. The Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, founded in 2016, advocates for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.*

MOST and MD4CS are pleased to support House Bill 981. This legislation creates an intentional approach to evaluating the risks and opportunities posed by AI within our education system. As a longtime supporter of STEM in afterschool settings, we are particularly concerned about building student technology literacy. Students should be able to use technology as educated consumers and generatively as creators. There is no doubt that knowledge and understanding of AI will be required in many jobs in the future. Overly limiting students' exposure to new AI tools will make them less prepared for higher education and career pursuits.

AI presents opportunities for educators, including innovations in improved workflow, collaboration, and curriculum development. Several national organizations are working to help state and local school districts build their capacities around AI. New America and the Open Technology Institute are resources to use as a starting point. <https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/implementation-resources-for-ai-in-education/>

With all of AI's potential upsides come serious concerns about accuracy, quality, and safety. To help avoid misuse, common sense, and best-practice guidelines should be implemented. Local Education Agency guidelines should be developed in consultation with key stakeholders, including teachers, students, and families.

We urge a favorable report for House Bill 981 and applaud Delegate Ebersole for encouraging forward-thinking action on AI in Education.

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