
TO: House Appropriations Committee

BILL: House Bill (HB) 1277- Education - Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity - Establishment

DATE: March 10, 2026

POSITION: Letter of Information

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the State Board of Education (SBOE) appreciate the Maryland Institute of Literacy and Equity (MILE) as a partner in supporting improved literacy rates in the State. Improved student literacy is one of MSDE's top priorities, as can be seen in our [Comprehensive PK-Grade 3 Literacy Policy](#) and our proposed [Adolescent Literacy Policy](#). MILE has been a key partner in promoting reading and evidence-based literacy instruction across the State. Working with our higher education partners is especially important at a time when we have a teacher shortage and when we need to support veteran teachers to incorporate newer instructional techniques into their practice.

As resources become available in the future, MSDE would support investing further in literacy for our schools and for partner organizations that support literacy instruction, such as MILE.

For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at 443-571-5461 or Laurel.Cratsley@maryland.gov.