



BLUEPRINT FOR  
**Maryland's Future**

Accountability &  
Implementation Board

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**BILL:** House Bill 1277

**TITLE:** Education - Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity - Establishment

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Smith

**HEARING DATE:** March 10, 2026

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations

**POSITION:** INFORMATION


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The Accountability and Implementation Board for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (AIB) submits this **letter of information** for **House Bill 1277 – Education – Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity – Establishment**.

House Bill 1277 organizes a partnership between the University of Maryland, College Park Campus and Morgan State University, establishing the Maryland Institute for Literacy and Equity to serve as a State-funded research and technical assistance center that would promote literacy in the State.

In November 2023, to support effective literacy instruction in the State, the AIB, with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) passed a joint resolution to commission a comprehensive, independent, statewide evaluation of literacy instruction across all 24 local education agencies (LEAs). The AIB and MSDE chose the Maryland Initiative for Literacy and Equity (MILE) to conduct the evaluation, which was designed to focus on collaboration and capacity building across stakeholder groups.

Throughout 2024, MILE reviewed draft K-5 literacy implementation plans from all twenty-four (24) LEAs, in partnership with AIM Institute for Learning and Research. In addition to providing feedback on these literacy implementation plans, MILE research teams conducted interviews, focus groups and targeted classroom “learning visits” to understand and observe literacy implementation across the State. MILE provided individual reports to each LEA on PreK-5 literacy planning and implementation, and their reviews helped LEAs revise their literacy plans. MILE’s work also included a statewide analysis on literacy implementation plans and recommendations for building literacy plans and



ensuring continuous literacy improvement. To gather data, MILE visited schools, observed classrooms, spoke with more than 850 teachers, principals, and staff through interviews or focus groups, and collected feedback from a Professional Development Survey.

MILE's final report identified observed factors in effective implementation, barriers and challenges, opportunities for growth, and relevant key findings on a broad range of topics, from instruction, training and staff development, and the use of high quality instructional materials (HQIM), to local and State leadership, administrative structures, and family and community engagement. MILE also provided a comprehensive list of recommendations. MILE's efforts informed the development of standard protocols and the identification of clear, actionable key success indicators to support reading development for students across the State. The MILE team presented their Statewide Review of Implementation of Literacy Instruction to the AIB Board on September 4, 2024.

MILE continues to share its expertise across Maryland and the DMV region by hosting and participating in literacy summits that support stronger early and secondary literacy efforts. AIB members and staff have participated in these events, recognizing that improving literacy is a key lever in achieving the vision of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future to make Maryland a top-performing education system. Through its work, MILE advances equitable student outcomes by promoting research-based practices and providing high-quality teacher training, aligned to key pillars of the Blueprint. The AIB also consulted with MILE to gather insights and recommendations on supporting Career Ladder implementation and ensuring teachers have equitable access to the training and resources needed to grow and advance within the Career Ladder, including National Board Certification.

We hope that you find this information helpful as you consider **HB 1277**. If you would like more information, please contact Joy Schaefer, Government Relations Director at [joy.schaefer@maryland.gov](mailto:joy.schaefer@maryland.gov) or (410) 991-7623.