
TO: House Committee on Ways & Means
BILL: SB0720 – Education – Artificial Intelligence – Guidelines, Professional Development, and Collaborative (Artificial Intelligence Ready Schools Act)
DATE: April 1, 2026
POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) support Senate Bill 720 as amended. The bill reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that artificial intelligence (AI) is integrated into Maryland’s public schools in ways that are safe, equitable, transparent, and student-centered.

SB0720 establishes a comprehensive statewide framework for AI in education, covering guidance for students, educators, administrators, and families. It also aligns policies for local education agencies (LEAs), appoints local AI coordinators, incorporates AI literacy into workforce training and computer science standards, offers professional development for educators, and establishes a Maryland AI Education Collaborative.

MSDE has already taken significant steps in this area, including publishing statewide AI guidance and developing resources to support local implementation. The amended bill aligns closely with this work and reinforces the importance of clear statewide guardrails that prioritize equity, privacy, academic integrity, and responsible use.

The Department appreciates that the amended bill addresses important operational considerations raised in earlier discussions. Specifically, the bill now requires MSDE to develop and publish a standardized rubric for evaluating AI tools, rather than requiring the Department to directly evaluate or certify tools statewide. This approach appropriately maintains local responsibility for procurement decisions while ensuring consistency with State guidance.

The amended professional development requirements adopt a more flexible and sustainable approach. Instead of specifying a specific delivery method, the bill emphasizes providing educators and school leaders with training that is of adequate duration and quality. Additionally, the Maryland AI Education Collaborative creates a vital platform for educators, policymakers, industry partners, and stakeholders to collaborate, assess implementation, and inform continuous improvements.

MSDE supports SB0720 as amended because it offers a balanced, forward-looking framework that sets clear statewide expectations to promote the responsible and effective use of AI in education. The State Board and the Department support these changes and look forward to collaborating on their implementation. We recognize that these initiatives represent significant operational lifts that will require additional resources to successfully execute. We appreciate the General Assembly’s acknowledgment of this reality in the proposed budget, which includes \$500,000 in support. For additional information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director of Government Affairs, at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov.