



House Bill 1196
County Boards of Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Implementation
Coordinator – Salary Grant
Appropriations Committee
March 7, 2023
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 is one of the fifty statewide networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and serves as Maryland’s affiliate to the National Afterschool Association. MOST serves as the backbone for the Maryland Coalition for Community Schools, which was founded in 2016 to advocate for student and family success by leading the charge to expand the Community School Model in Maryland.

The Blueprint for Maryland’s Future provides school districts with a comprehensive road map of best-practice and research-based strategies and, in most cases, the funding necessary to implement this new approach for better outcomes. Unfortunately, one place the Blueprint falls short is in putting in place the necessary support systems to ensure that the new programs are implemented with quality and fidelity.

School Districts have stepped up, working to find, within their existing infrastructure, the personnel to serve as “Blueprint Coordinators.” These roles are often repurposed from Title I or Student Support staff, leaving holes in other departments. The Blueprint Coordinators have spent hundreds of hours receiving training, guidance, and technical assistance and have been tasked with an almost impossible timeline of creating a massive plan for their districts while collecting stakeholder input. At a minimum, each district should be provided with a paid position to serve in these demanding roles.

For future consideration, the administration and support needs related to the Blueprint, and the state and district level should be assessed and adjusted across the board. We are particularly concerned that there needs to be additional support for implementing Community Schools at both the state and local levels.

This investment in Blueprint Coordinator positions is a positive step forward for Blueprint Implementation, and we urge the committee to provide a favorable report for HB1196.

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