

# **Blueprint for Maryland's Future Accountability and Implementation Board Nominating Committee**

## **Overview**

**Purpose.** The purpose of the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) Nominating Committee (committee) is to seek, select, and nominate for appointment by the Governor qualified individuals to serve on the Accountability and Implementation Board as required under § 5-402 of the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code.

**Membership.** The committee is composed of six members – two members each appointed by the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Delegates. The members serve a term of five years. The law requires the committee to consist of individuals who:

- (1) collectively reflect, to the extent practicable, the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity of the State; and
- (2) have collective knowledge of:
  - (i) education policy for early childhood education through postsecondary education;
  - (ii) education strategies used by top-performing state and national systems in the world;
  - (iii) systemic changes in complex organizations; and
  - (iv) financial auditing and accounting.

(§ 5-403 of the Education Article of the Maryland Annotated Code)

**Nominations.** The committee must nominate a slate of at least nine individuals that meet the statutory requirements for the initial establishment of AIB. For a vacancy on AIB, a slate of at least two individuals must be nominated.

Nominees shall be decided by a majority vote of the committee, provided that at least one vote must be cast in the majority by a member appointed by the Governor, President, and Speaker, respectively.

The Governor must appoint AIB members within 30 days of receipt of the slate of nominees from the committee.

# Blueprint for Maryland's Future Accountability and Implementation Board

## Overview

**Purpose.** The Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB or board) is a seven-member board appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, charged with holding State and local governments, including county boards of education, accountable for implementing the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and evaluating the outcomes achieved against the goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education during the implementation period 2021 through 2032.

The board shall strive to provide equal access to a high-quality education with equitable outcomes for each student regardless of the student's race, ethnicity, gender, address, disability status, socioeconomic status, or the language spoken in the student's home.

**Membership.** AIB consists of seven individuals who *collectively*:

- (1) reflect, to the extent practicable, the geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural and gender diversity of the State; and
- (2) have a high level of knowledge and expertise in:
  - (i) early education through secondary education policy;
  - (ii) postsecondary education policy;
  - (iii) teaching in public schools;
  - (iv) strategies used by top-performing state and national education systems in the world;
  - (v) leading and implementing systemic change in complex organizations; and
  - (vi) financial auditing and accounting.

The Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House jointly appoint the AIB chair.

A member of the board may not receive compensation but is entitled to expense reimbursements.

The term of a member is six years, which is staggered for initial members as follows: three terms expire July 1, 2024; two terms expire July 1, 2025; and two terms expire July 1, 2026. A member may be renominated by the AIB Nominating Committee.

AIB is authorized in statute until June 30, 2032.

**Powers and Duties.** AIB is an independent unit of State government. The board has the authority to adopt regulations to carry out provisions of the law; adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business; sue or be sued; accept loans, grants, or assistance of any kind; enter into contracts as necessary, including with independent experts to fulfill its duties; subpoena data needed to complete its functions and duties; and appoint an executive director and hire staff to carry out its powers and duties.

AIB is subject to the Public Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, and the Maryland Public Ethics Law. Members will be required to file an annual financial disclosure form with the State Ethics Commission. Open meetings of the board must be made available to the public through live video streaming and archived on the Internet for at least five years.

The board is not intended to usurp or abrogate the operational authority of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Governor's Workforce Investment Board, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Department of Commerce or the Maryland Department of Labor. The board may not usurp or abrogate the lawful collective bargaining process.

AIB has plenary authority over all matters within its jurisdiction under State law, including the intended outcomes of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. In the event of a conflict between AIB and the decision or policy of another entity on a matter within AIB's jurisdiction, AIB's decision or policy shall control.

**Staffing and Budget.** To carry out its duties and responsibilities, AIB will have a professional staff of approximately 15 individuals, including an executive director selected by AIB, an assistant Attorney General, and other professionals. AIB also has the authority to contract with consultants, experts, accountants, and any other entity needed to conduct its work. Operational funding of at least \$1.8 million annually is mandated for AIB in fiscal 2022 through 2032, with an additional \$3.0 million mandated in fiscal 2022 through 2024 to provide technical assistance to local school systems to develop and implement their Blueprint implementation plans and for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee to provide technical assistance.

Due to the timing of the enactment of House Bill 1300 of 2020 (Chapter 36 of 2021), the Governor was not required to – and did not – include funding for AIB in the fiscal 2022 State budget (Chapter 357 of 2021). The Maryland General Assembly added language to the State budget authorizing the Governor (at his discretion) to transfer \$4.8 million from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund (a special fund that holds revenues dedicated to implementing the Blueprint) to AIB, and also authorizes funding to implement other Blueprint programs in fiscal 2022. Further, Chapter 356 of 2021 includes a supplementary appropriation of \$4.8 million for AIB from new sports wagering revenues dedicated to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund; if and when those revenues become available in fiscal 2022, the Governor is required to provide the funding first to AIB, and then to other Blueprint programs listed in priority order.

**Responsibilities.** In general, the board is responsible for overseeing implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Blueprint) by State and local units of government, monitoring

and evaluating whether the Blueprint is achieving the intended results, and making recommendations for changes needed to ensure that the Blueprint is implemented successfully. Specifically, the responsibilities of the board include:

#### Implementation Plans and Use of Funds

- Developing a statewide Comprehensive Implementation Plan, including an implementation timeline, for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and its intended outcomes that all units of State and local government responsible for implementing the Blueprint must follow and adopting the initial plan by February 15, 2022;
- Reviewing and approving the implementation plans, initially submitted no later than June 15, 2022, by local school systems and other units of State and local government;
- Providing technical assistance to local school systems to develop and implement local implementation plans;
- Approving the MSDE criteria for recommending to AIB the approval or disapproval of local school system implementation plans and release of funds;
- Monitoring implementation of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan and the implementation plans adopted by local school systems and other units of State and local government;
- Approving and managing the release of annual funding increases in the State share of major education aid from each local school system and development of appeals process; and
- Reviewing the use of funds by State and local governments to implement the Blueprint, including monitoring school-level expenditures.

#### Oversight and Training

- Providing training to Expert Review Teams and approving plans for the deployment of teams submitted by MSDE and the CTE Committee;
- Oversight of the CTE Committee;
- Providing outreach and education materials to parents, students, and members of the public on the Blueprint for Maryland's Future;
- Disseminating information on best practices, programs, and resources, providing technical assistance and training, and resolving implementation issues; and

- Identifying ways to establish and promote partnerships or collaborative relationships between local school systems, public schools, institutions of higher education to facilitate the development of a world-class education system within the State.

### Monitoring Performance and Evaluations

- Evaluating the outcomes achieved during implementation of the Blueprint by gathering and analyzing data (working with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center (MLDSC)), including disaggregated data based on race, ethnicity, family income, linguistic status, and disability status, to measure student progress, including the effects on student performance over time and closing achievement gaps among student demographic groups and the effect of implementation on other student outcomes;
- Monitoring and reviewing the performance of teacher preparation programs and alternative teacher preparation programs in the State;
- In consultation with MLDSC, evaluating the effectiveness of efforts to increase diversity in teacher preparation programs and teachers and school leaders in the State with a report due by December 31, 2026;
- Monitoring changes in the concentration of poverty in public schools and school systems;
- Examining school-level diversity of public school staff and student bodies;
- Monitoring and reviewing the placement of teachers and the demographics of the students they teach;
- Monitoring and reviewing the progress of community schools;
- Examining the implementation of full-day prekindergarten by public and private providers and the student makeup to determine if meeting the needs of families;
- Monitoring that sufficient numbers of teachers are participating in the career ladder and achieving National Board Certification;
- Determining when the career ladder system is well established throughout the State;
- Submitting an annual report to the Governor, General Assembly, and the public that includes progress made on implementing the Blueprint and achieving its intended outcomes, any recommended legislative changes to the Blueprint, the degree to which State and local agencies are implementing the Blueprint as required, and whether State and local funding being provided are consistent with AIB's estimate of what is necessary to fully implement the Blueprint; and

- Contracting with a public or private entity to conduct an independent evaluation of the State’s progress in Blueprint implementation and meeting the intended outcomes. AIB must submit evaluation reports to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2024, and December 1, 2030, with the final report including recommendations on whether AIB should continue to monitor Blueprint implementation after June 30, 2032.

Consultation and Collaboration

- Coordinating through MSDE the State’s participation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Program for International Student Assessment survey program;
- After consultation with AIB, units of State government required to implement an element of the Blueprint may adopt regulations relating to the Blueprint;
- In consultation with AIB, MSDE contracts with a public/private entity to conduct an empirical study of college and career readiness (CCR) standards based on what is needed to succeed in entry-level courses at community colleges in the State. In consultation with AIB and other entities, the State Board of Education adopts new CCR standards;
- In consultation with AIB, the State Board of Education and Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board adopt regulations to carry out the content and specified requirements for teacher preparation programs; and
- In collaboration with AIB, MSDE provides school leadership training programs on the Blueprint for State and local superintendents and senior instruction-related staff and members of State and local boards of education and school principals.

**Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.** For more information about the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future and its development, please see the following:

Blueprint for Maryland’s Future Legislation and Fiscal and Policy Notes:

- [Chapter 36 of 2021](#) and [fiscal note](#)
- [Chapter 55 of 2021](#) and [fiscal note](#)
- [Chapter 771 of 2019](#) and [fiscal note](#)

Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education:

- [2020 Final Report](#)
- [2019 Interim Report](#)
- [2018 Preliminary Report](#) and [Technical Supplement](#)
- [Meeting Materials 2016-2019](#)