

BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

STATEWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

WINTER 2026

Highlights in the 4th full year of Blueprint implementation:

Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Pillar 4	Pillar 5
70%	401%	53%	150%	100%
increase in 3- and 4-year olds enrolled in full-day Pre-K	increase in teachers earning and/or maintaining National Board Certification (NBC)	increase in students dually enrolled in School Year (SY) 23-24, representing 10% of high school students	increase in community schools statewide	percentage of LEA Progress Monitoring Conferences completed by the AIB and LEAs in Fall 2025



LEA Progress Highlights [One-Pagers](#) are now available



Pillar 1: Early Childhood Education

- **Total of 27,058** 3- and 4-year olds enrolled in full-day publicly funded Pre-K programs, an increase from 15,898 in SY21-22
- **Since SY21-22, 46 new Judy Centers** have been established for a total of 101 statewide, serving over 6,000 children from birth to age 5
- **9 new Patty Centers** have been established since SY21-22 to reach a total of 18 statewide. Patty Centers serve over 500 families and 700 students from birth to age 5
- The new unbiased Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, a Blueprint requirement, was administered for the first time in SY25-26. **57% of students tested were “established”, the highest level, in early literacy and 55% were “established” in mathematics**

Pillar 2: High-quality and Diverse Teachers and Leaders

- NBC achievement increased 24% from SY24-25, with **1,435 educators newly achieving and 157 educators maintaining NBC in SY25-26**
- For the 3rd year in a row, Maryland is **#1 in the country for the number of new teachers** earning NBC. [13 Maryland districts](#) are in the top 25 of the country in terms of total number of new NBCTs this year
- Maryland has the 3rd highest percentage (6.7%) of educators who hold active certifications
- **Over 3,000 Maryland teachers are pursuing NBC**
- The number of **teacher vacancies from SY24-25 to SY25-26 has decreased 45%**, from 1,619 to 886
- **All teachers in Maryland received a 10% salary increase** by July 2024 to retain teachers and attract the best and brightest to the teaching profession. The Blueprint requires that all teachers statewide have a **minimum salary of \$60,000 beginning in July 2026**
- All 24 LEAs have **approved teacher career ladders for Levels 1-4** to further professionalize the teaching profession and provide concrete steps for advancement for all Maryland educators. Multiple LEAs are running **Level 4 Pilots** to continue development of the career ladder and offer additional leadership opportunities for educators

Pillar 3: College & Career Readiness

- Statewide, students are progressing in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics proficiency on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) from SY21-22 to SY24-25. Student proficiency increased **5.3 percentage points (pp) in Grade 3-8 ELA and 5.7pp in Grade 3-8 Math**
 - Five LEAs have seen **substantial student proficiency growth over 10pp** (2 in ELA and 3 in math)
- Maryland students have made progress on the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), specifically in literacy
 - In 4th grade reading, Maryland moved from **40th nationwide to 20th**
 - In 8th grade reading, Maryland moved from **25th to 21st**
- All 24 LEAs are implementing approved **PreK-12 Comprehensive Literacy Plans aligned with the Science of Reading**. All 24 LEAs submitted **PreK-12 Comprehensive Mathematics Plan in September 2025** that have been approved by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
- **231 Industry-Recognized Credentials (IRCs)** were State-approved for SY25-26
- **Approximately 140 students** are participating in a Registered Apprenticeship program
- **370 career coaches across the state are providing career counseling** to middle and high school students. LEAs and local workforce development boards are in the third year of this partnership established by the Blueprint

Pillar 4: More Resources for Students to be Successful

- Student proficiency growth on MCAP from SY21-22 to SY24-25 for **economically disadvantaged students has outpaced student growth for all students:**
 - In Grade 3-8 ELA, economically disadvantaged student proficiency grew by **10.3pp compared to 5.3pp** for all students
 - In Grade 3-8 Math, economically disadvantaged student proficiency grew by **7pp, compared to 5.7pp** growth overall
- All schools with **concentration of poverty of 55% or more** received funds and support to become a community school in SY25-26
- The Consortium of Coordinated Community Supports awarded **114 grants totaling over \$94 million to Maryland public schools** in SY25-26

Pillar 5: Governance and Accountability

- All 24 LEAs **report school expenditure data monthly to the same financial reporting system through PowerSchool** to show Blueprint funds following students to their schools, in accordance with Minimum School Funding (MSF) guidelines established in the [Joint Implementation Policy](#) adopted by the AIB and Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE)
 - Almost all LEAs coded at least 75% of their Fiscal Year 2025 expenditures for the Foundation program at the school level
- The AIB has released **data dashboards for Blueprint progress** on the [AIB website](#). This includes data on several [aligned metrics](#) adopted by the AIB and MSBE. The data dashboards include statewide and LEA level data related to each pillar, including MSF data mentioned above
- The AIB conducted **Progress Monitoring conferences with all 24 LEAs in Fall 2025**. Progress Monitoring Summaries are posted on the AIB website on the [“Progress Monitoring” page](#)

Data included in this document represents the changes from the baseline year, SY21-22, to the fourth year of Blueprint implementation and this current school year, SY25-26, unless noted otherwise

Learn more about the AIB & Blueprint Implementation at aib.maryland.gov