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BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE

To: Local Superintendents and Blueprint Implementation Coordinators

From: Isiah Leggett, Chair

Re: LEA Blueprint Implementation Plan Review

Date: May 8, 2023

In response to several questions that we have received from Blueprint coordinators in the past few weeks, I wanted to update you regarding the Blueprint implementation plan review process. At recent AIB meetings, we have described a joint process between AIB and MSDE to calibrate shared plan expectations and to provide a unified set of initial ratings and feedback where possible. These efforts were designed to represent a unified voice from AIB and MSDE. It was our hope that a joint process would also help streamline the revision process for LEAs. The AIB has made every effort to work with MSDE and Superintendent Choudhury to develop a joint process that was acceptable. However, in the end, the Superintendent decided that MSDE should follow an independent process.

Therefore, MSDE is proceeding with its process and has shared its reviewer ratings and feedback with LEAs. The AIB is working to mitigate the impact of a separate AIB process on LEAs. AIB staff is in the process of comparing AIB reviewer feedback alongside the feedback that has been provided by MSDE to identify any areas of significant concern that may require further plan revisions. We are striving to limit, if not eliminate, any potential for conflicting feedback between AIB and MSDE. Please be advised that to the extent that a conflict exists, the law clearly states that AIB is responsible for approving Blueprint implementation plans.

The AIB's timeline for LEA plan approvals will be slightly delayed to accommodate a two-step process. Based on the schedule that MSDE has provided for when its recommendations will be submitted to AIB, and the potential need for additional revisions based on AIB feedback, it is unlikely that any plans can be approved until July. As was discussed at the April AIB meeting, no funds will be withheld from an LEA that has not had its plan approved until the final bi-monthly payment in May 2024. AIB will discuss the timeline for final decisions on the 2023 Blueprint implementation plans and the proposed appeal process at its next meeting on May 11, 2023.

On behalf of the AIB, we thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and the children of Maryland.

cc: AIB Members
State Board President Clarence Crawford
State Superintendent Mohammed Choudhury