

Key Responsibilities

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) plays a central role in establishing policy guardrails, building educator capacity, and ensuring that AI use across districts remains safe, equitable, and aligned with Maryland's educational mission. The responsibilities outlined below reflect MSDE's commitment to guiding, supporting, and continuously improving AI integration statewide while preserving local autonomy for tool selection and deployment.

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN MARYLAND'S STATEWIDE AI GUIDANCE

- Publish Maryland's K-12 Artificial Intelligence Guidance.
- Update the guidance annually to reflect new research, technology developments, and statewide implementation insights.
- Clarify definitions, expectations, and guardrails for instructional, operational, and administrative uses of AI.

ESTABLISH STATEWIDE PRINCIPLES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR RESPONSIBLE AI USE

- Set clear expectations for equity, fairness, and protection against discrimination.
- Establish transparent, student-centered policies on privacy, data protections, security, academic integrity, and human oversight.
- Define statewide expectations for AI literacy across grade bands.

BUILD STATEWIDE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INFRASTRUCTURE

- Create and maintain professional learning pathways for educators, administrators, and district leaders.
- Develop training modules on AI literacy, responsible use, ethics, data privacy, academic integrity, and bias evaluation.
- Provide tool agnostic and role-specific PL (teachers, principals, district leaders, specialists).
- Support statewide communities of practice for AI implementation.

PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TOOLS, AND TEMPLATES FOR LEAS

- Model local policies on AI use (instructional, operational, data-related).
- Risk assessment templates (privacy, equity, operational risk, impact assessments).
- Local communication templates for families.
- Sample lesson ideas, AI literacy integrations, and instructional exemplars.
- Guidance on procurement expectations (but not vendor vetting or recommendations).

ESTABLISH STATEWIDE DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY GUARDRAILS

- Define statewide expectations for data minimization, privacy protections, and compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, and applicable Maryland laws and regulations.
- Provide model data governance practices that districts can adopt or adapt.
- Deliver guidance on cybersecurity implications of AI adoption.

FACILITATE CROSS-DISTRICT COLLABORATION

- Convene LEA working groups, communities of practice, advisory councils, and stakeholder panels.
- Support coordinated learning, sharing of promising practices, and discussion of challenges.
- Promote alignment across LEAs while respecting local autonomy.

ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

- Communicate statewide expectations and updates to educators, families, policymakers, and the public.
- Ensure accessibility in all published materials (multilingual access, disability access).
- Provide opportunities for stakeholder feedback, including students.

SUPPORT LEAS WITH CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT CYCLES

- Help districts integrate AI monitoring into existing accountability, school improvement, and instructional support processes.
- Provide frameworks for evaluating tool performance and identifying bias.
- Offer guidance on discontinuation of harmful or ineffective AI practices.

LEAD THE DEVELOPMENT OF AI LITERACY EXPECTATIONS

- Publish statewide AI literacy competencies across K-12.
- Provide curricular guidance to integrate AI literacy into existing subjects.
- Develop resources and PL to support educators in delivering AI literacy instruction.

SERVE AS A POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION THOUGHT LEADER

- Track national and international research, guidance, and regulatory developments.
- Coordinate Maryland's AI-in-education strategy with state partners, workforce agencies, higher education, and national organizations.
- Maintain alignment with Maryland's broader goals for Career and Technical Education, computer science, and digital literacy.