



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

July 7, 2020

The Honorable Eric Luedtke  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 350  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Luedtke:

Thank you for your long-standing commitment to the literacy education of Maryland's children and youth. Your vision to have a coordinator serve as a point-of-contact for making resources available to educators throughout our state is worthwhile. As you noted, this person could utilize best practices in reading, writing and spelling instruction when teaching students with dyslexia, dysgraphia and other reading difficulties.

Although we are not able to add another position to our staff at this time, I'm pleased to say that our English Language/Arts (ELA) Coordinator possesses many of the necessary skills and the knowledge to provide those supports to our educators. As a matter of fact, since the passage of the Ready to Read Act, the coordination of that Act's implementation has been the responsibility of our ELA Coordinator and she has integrated the legislation with all literacy initiatives at the Department. In addition, the ELA Coordinator has collaborated across the Department with the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services and the Division of Early Childhood, as well as consulted with other stakeholders across the state. Currently, our Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement and Professional Learning is forming a stakeholder focus group that will work to elevate high-quality and evidence-based literacy.

Please be assured that the Maryland State Department of Education recognizes the importance of this work and will continue to provide support to students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, and other reading difficulties.

Best Regards,

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

c: Marcia A. Sprankle, Ed.D.  
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