



Maryland READS

Reading Education Aligned to Data and Science

Our Direction is Clear

Maryland READS Applauds the Maryland State Board of Education and Dr. Carey Wright

Dear Friends of Maryland READS:

On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, the Maryland State Board of Education adopted a [Reading Resolution](#) that sets a clear and ambitious goal:

*The State Board sets **a statewide aspirational target for Maryland to rank as one of the top ten states in reading on the 4th and 8th grade NAEP exams by 2027.***

Currently, Maryland ranks [40th among states in 4th grade reading scores](#) and [25th for 8th grade reading scores](#), according to the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP).

We Must Work Together: Our expert advisors shared that it is not enough to be headed in the same direction – we'll reach our destination faster if we are rowing the same route and working together.

Stay Tuned! We look forward to releasing our first publication, **The State of Reading in Maryland**, next month. Look for more information on what's happening in Maryland and more ideas for how you can stay engaged.

Embrace the Science of Reading: A key strategy for addressing Maryland's ten-year decline in reading proficiency is to align reading instruction to the Science of Reading. This approach, based upon the report from [The National Reading Panel](#), is grounded in research about how children learn to read. Our reading teachers are like brain surgeons - they are wiring our children's brains to become readers.

Help us Build a Thriving Reading Ecosystem: In order to achieve the ambitious goal of becoming one of the top ten states for reading, we must build a thriving reading ecosystem. Research shows there are many strategies within our ecosystem that can have a significant impact on supporting the instruction that is taking place in the classroom, and improving reading proficiency among our students.

It's time to join the effort to support improving reading proficiency in our state.

- ★ Thank you to those who are lending their time and expertise to inform our work.
- ★ Help us expand our network or partner on district level convenings. Please share this letter or reach out directly!

Trish Brennan-Gac, JD, Executive Director, [Maryland READS](#)
trishbrennangac@marylandreads.org OR 202-360-0165

- [Download and watch](#) this clip from the [State Board of Education Meeting](#): Reading Resolution and Dr. Wright's presentation
- Learn more about Dr. Wright's approach for [Continuous Literacy Improvement: Building a Comprehensive State Literacy Plan](#)