

Hello Maryland Students!

My name is Abisola, and I am your Student Member of the Board of the Maryland State Board of Education. My primary objective is to enhance communication between students and the **State Board**. Therefore, I am delighted to present my final student update for 2023!

At the Board, we have continued discussions on implementing **Maryland's Blueprint for the Future**. Notably, for high school students, it introduces **free** Advanced Placement exams, community college courses, and career and technical education opportunities. Access to these valuable college and career pathways is dependent on achieving college and career readiness (**CCR**). We had 30 students complete the survey and share their feedback. I greatly appreciate your input and look forward to seeing more engagement in the future!

For the first time in State Board history, we established legislative principles through our Educational Policy Committee, which I am a member of. We worked hard to ensure that the board has established priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

In my capacity as State SMOB, I have the privilege of participating in several community events. At the start of this month, I attended the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Executive Board meeting, where we voted on rules for the annual convention and took stances on bills for the upcoming legislative session. Additionally, I had the opportunity to visit the Governor's House, which was a super cool opportunity!

I made a visit to Montgomery County Regional (**MCR**) and Montgomery County Junior Councils (**MCJC**) for a joint general assembly at Richard Montgomery High School. It was such a great opportunity to answer questions from students and learn more about Montgomery County Schools. I even recorded a podcast episode with Montgomery County Student Member, Sami Saeed, which should be out by the end of the year! By the New Year, I will have also completed my visit to the Howard County Association of Student Councils (**HCASC**) for their session on engaging with legislators. I look forward to visiting more regions in the future!

Lastly, I'd like to take a moment to thank my Operational Team! They work so hard to ensure that the students of Maryland remain informed about what's happening at the Board.

If you would like to stay updated on all things State SMOB, you can follow **@mdpublicschools** and **@statesmob** on Instagram. Additionally, useful resources and relevant links are on my Linktree page : www.linktr.ee/abisolaayoola. Happy Holidays and have a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,
Abisola Ayoola