Newletter from the ES
Council for Teaching & Learning

mcea
Montgomery County Education Association

January 2025

Dear COOL Teachers,

Your CTL reps met this month during the snowstorm (yes- we meet even when schools are closed) because we know you are all working beyond your work hours too! That said, due to the storm our guests had to reschedule their meeting with us, which left us with time to organize our efforts around a few topics we know matter to you too:

- CKLA issues including:
  - Lack of materials for students
  - Lack of materials for ELD/SPED teachers
  - Lack of materials for ALO students/teachers
  - Amount of assessment required by CKLA
  - Time required by teacher to grade the CKLA assessments
- ELA issues:
  - Amount of time it takes to scan the papers into the system
  - Need of additional PD and resources with implementation of new CKLA
- Kindergarten issues:
  - Social-emotional needs of incoming students
  - Toileting needs of incoming students
  - Play time/ play center time
  - K orientation/ Transition day
- Social Studies and how this will align with Amplify and Writing
- Synergy issues:
  - Continued problems with synergy requiring too many clicks
  - Measurement topics not aligned with curriculum

While we do not have many new updates about these issues, we are working on it, trying to get attention to these issues and maybe some answers too! We will keep working for you and hope to have some updates in February!

Reminders
If you have questions about or need more information about the Blueprint, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

If you ever have any questions, concerns, or topics you'd like us to discuss at our meetings, please add them to this document. We will do our best to answer them in the document, in our meetings, and in our monthly letters.

Additional information & Resources
- HIAT Quick Guide
- uPAR Overview from the Vendor
- Accommodations - Classroom vs. Testing
- Research supporting the use of text-to-speech
- Clarksburg's success with using text to speech for all students
- MCPS AT Support Portal
- IT links: Canva, KAMI, and AI
- How does your work connect to the Blueprint? Implementation plan
  - Additional information: MCPS Blueprint video

Sincerely,

Your Devoted CTL representatives