

# Newletter from the ES

## Council for Teaching & Learning



February 2025

Dear Spectacular Teachers,

As we do every month, your CTL representatives met this month, excited to talk to Dr. Peter Moran- the Chief of School Support and Improvement, to discuss some issues that have been on our collective minds:

- Kindergarten issues, specifically Transition day, how it will look like.
- Central office new structure, especially around supporting school teams
- Updates about CKLA:
  - Assessment numbers/ Time devoted to assessments
  - Lack of materials to HSM/ELD teachers
  - No adaptations for ALO/ELD

However, he was not able to attend so we did not get to hear from him or his office. We are still hoping he will join us for our next meeting. If you have any questions you would like us to address when we meet him, please feel free to add them to [this document](#).

We did hear some great news from the CTL representatives who are also building representatives. As you may already know, the RA (representative assembly) voted on the proposal for the new collaboration committees. With this new structure, we will have specific committees for all types of members positions. For example, we will have a collaboration committee for Secondary, and another committee for Elementary, but also one for ELD teachers, and one for Special education teachers. There are a total of 18 collaborative committees, each relatively smaller than the CTL, but when topics cross several committees- they will join forces and work together to resolve the issues.

As the name “collaboration committees” suggests, we hope that this structure will allow us to form collaborative relationships with MCPS folks relevant to the work of each committee.

Members- when the time comes, please consider nominating yourself to serve on these committees and help us foster collaborative solutions to improve our working conditions to benefit us and our students. That said, if being on these committees is not your thing- please oh please **VOTE** for those who did nominate themselves.

We also got an update from our wonderful Kindergarten CTL representative regarding instructional guidelines for kindergarten in 2025-2026. The language in the 24-25 guidelines were not clear regarding play centers in kindergarten. MCPS agrees that play is developmentally appropriate in kindergarten. MCPS is conferring with the MCEA collaborative workgroup to have clearer guidelines for how play can be incorporated into educational activities that support social development. We will keep you posted as we hear more!

### **Reminders**

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