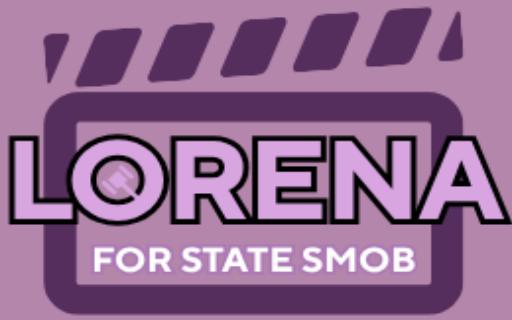


V.I.S.I.O.N Plaform



FOR THE BEST V.I.S.I.O.N.

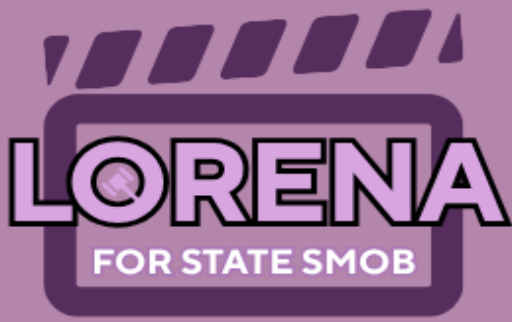
V.I.S.I.O.N. Platform - For the best VISION of Maryland's educational future

V: Valuing Student Voices

- Establish two-way communication systems for students statewide:
 - Create an anonymous reporting form, similar to those implemented by previous state SMOBs
 - Conduct visits to countywide SGA meetings to hear from student leaders
 - Organize Maryland tour to hear from individual students themselves, targeting those with high chronic absenteeism, to understand real student needs
 - Implement "SMOB Monthly Minute", which would serve as a news platform on social media for students to stay updated with SMOB and BOE activities
- For smaller counties, spearhead student shadowing initiative, where the State SMOB would follow a student throughout the day and complete the classes' activities

I: Inclusive and Healthy Schools

- Expand digital mental health tools, like Hazel Health, which is already implemented in 4 MD counties
 - Shown to decrease anxiety and depression among students by up to 75%, according to Clemson University and National Academies of Sciences
 - Aid in alleviating the gap between the Maryland's counselor ratio (362:1) and the nationally recommended standard (250:1)
 - Come to no cost for students, as services would be paid through the county
- Adopt state-level guidance requiring/encouraging local school systems to create mentor programs that pair trained adult mentors (teachers, counselors, community members) with students → embedded within Maryland School Mental Health Response Program (MD-SMHRP)
- Implement a diverse curriculum:
 - Collaborate with Maryland Association of Boards of Education to advocate for



FOR THE BEST V.I.S.I.O.N.

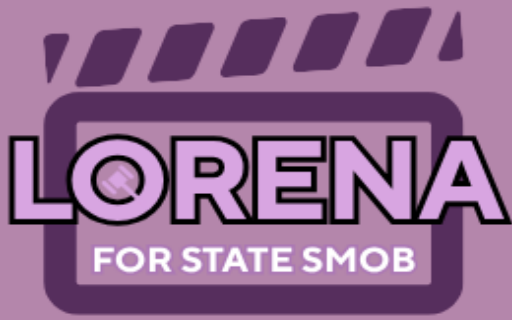
- curriculum inclusion (despite historic pushback)
- Encourage efforts and legislation like SB116 from 2022, which mandates inclusive and diverse ELA content standards

S: Safe Learning Environments

- Drug/opioid crisis:
 - Continue current efforts, including Heroin & Opioid Awareness & Prevention Toolkit, which provides materials for schools to educate families on risks and support, and student-created public service announcements
 - Push for bill HB852, which directs MSDE + local boards to update drug prevention education to include:
 - Information on NARCAN and its uses.
 - Policies permitting a broader set of trained school personnel to administer NARCAN during emergencies.
 - Integrate lived-experience speakers into required health classes through partnerships with Special Secretary of Overdose Response (Emily Keller) and Maryland Peer Recovery Network
- Expand professional development so educators can recognize signs of violence, drug use, and crisis

I: Infrastructure and Environmental Responsibility

- Prioritize renovation and rebuilding Maryland schools with greatest infrastructure needs.
- Sustainability:
 - Recycling:
 - Collaborate with Maryland Department of the Environment, county public works departments, and nonprofits like Keep Maryland Beautiful or TerraCycle to expand recycling opportunities
 - Food waste:
 - Require or encourage share tables in all schools through MSDE guidance documents and operational guidelines (designated areas where students can leave unwanted, unopened, and wholesome food/drink items for other students to take)



FOR THE BEST V.I.S.I.O.N.

O: Opportunity, Access, and Academic Growth

- Transportation:
 - Encourage GPS tracking/route apps so families can plan reliably
 - Advocate for the MSDE/compelling Local Education agencies (LEAs) to negotiate with local transit agencies for free fares from school for students
- Reevaluate Blueprint funding to ensure equitable distribution, especially with upcoming cuts to programs with Maryland deficit
 - Expand advanced, technical, and vocational programs statewide (CTE), especially in counties that may be lacking
- Strengthen career guidance so students from all backgrounds can access high-level opportunities
 - Advocate for bill SB283, which would prohibit county boards of education from charging certain students with financial need exam fees
- Support ELD learners by ensuring familial engagement, embedded learning, and multilingual staff/teachers
- Improve ELA and Math outcomes through structured mentorship and remedial learning programs, building on what previous State SMOBs worked on

N: Next Generation Focus

- Require all districts to create AI use guidelines for students and staff in school (similar to cell phone policy that was passed in August)
- Poverty:
 - Partner with the ENOUGH Initiative and its grantees to minimize youth poverty
 - Further expand Compensatory Education Aid and Concentration of Poverty Grants, adding on to the progress already made
- Recategorize illness out of the bounds of chronic absenteeism

Have any questions? DM @lorena4statesmob!

Did I miss anything/Want to provide feedback? Fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/XPLUJD85jYUspLeG9>