COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND 2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No.	CR-088-2025			
Proposed by	Council Member Oriadha			
Introduced by				
Co-Sponsors				
Date of Introduc	ction September 9, 2025			
	RESOLUTION			
A RESOLUTION	N concerning			
	Improving Prince George's County's Literacy			
For the purpose of	of establishing the Prince George's County Literacy Commission ("the			
Commission") to	develop strategic initiatives to assess, address, and improve literacy rates			
among residents	in Prince George's County.			
WHEREAS	, literacy is essential for individual empowerment, educational attainment,			
economic growth	, and overall community development; and			
WHEREAS	, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2023, twenty-			
eight percent (28	%) of U.S. adults scored at or below Level One (1) in literacy, indicating a			
significant portio	n of the population struggles with basic reading tasks; and			
WHEREAS, in 2024, Maryland's average reading score for fourth-grade students was only				
thirty-four percent (34%) performing at or above the National Assessment of Educational				
Progress' Profici	ent level, highlighting ongoing challenges in early literacy; and			
WHEREAS, Prince George's County Public Schools reported that in the 2023-24 academ				
year, English Language Arts proficiency across all tested students ranged from twenty-seven				
percent (27%) to	sixty-nine percent (69%), indicating significant disparities in literacy			
achievement with	nin the County; and			
WHEREAS	, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data,			
approximately th	irteen percent (13%) of Prince George's County residents aged twenty-five (25)			
and older did not	attain a high school diploma, indicating a significant portion of the adult			
population possib	bly facing challenges related to low literacy skills; and			

WHEREAS, low literacy levels among adults contribute significantly to unemployment and

underemployment, with the U.S. Department of Labor indicating that adults with lower literacy levels earn approximately thirty percent (30%) less than their more literate peers, negatively affecting economic stability within Prince George's County communities; and

WHEREAS, literacy issues disproportionately impact minority and economically disadvantaged populations within Prince George's County, exacerbating existing inequities and limiting opportunities for upward socioeconomic mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System has identified a growing demand for adult literacy resources, including English as a Second Language (ESL), to support the County's diverse and multilingual population; and

WHEREAS, The Prince George's County Workforce Development Board recognizes that low adult literacy levels hinder employment opportunities and economic growth, emphasizing the importance of adult education and literacy initiatives in workforce development strategies; and

WHEREAS, effective literacy enhancement requires coordinated strategies among schools, libraries, community organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes the importance of addressing literacy disparities to improve community resilience, educational success, and economic competitiveness;

WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Prince George's County Charter authorizes the County Council to appoint temporary advisory boards and commissions to assist in the consideration of county policies and programs; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the Prince George's County Literacy Commission is hereby established to develop and implement strategies aimed at improving literacy across Prince George's County:

- (a) The Commission shall conduct comprehensive assessments to identify literacy gaps among different age groups and communities within Prince George's County.
- (b) The Commission shall design and implement programs tailored to the specific needs of adults and students, leveraging existing resources and introducing innovative approaches.
 - (c) The Commission shall engage with community members, organizations, and institutions

- (d) The Commission shall advise the Prince George's County Board of Education and County Council on policies and funding allocations that promote the Commission's literacy initiatives.
 - (e) The Commission shall be comprised of the following members:
- (1) Two representatives from Prince George's County Public Schools, appointed by the Superintendent;
 - (2) One representative from Bowie State University, or their designee;
 - (3) One representative from the University of Maryland, or their designee;
- (4) One representative from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, or their designee;
- (5) One representative from the Prince George's County State Delegation, or their designee;
 - (6) One representative from Employ Prince George's, or their designee;
 - (7) One representative from Prince George's Community College, or their designee;
- (8) Three representatives from literacy-focused nonprofit organizations, appointed by the Chair of the County Council;
 - (9) One faith-based community leader, appointed by the Chair of the County Council;
- (10) One representative from a Parent Teacher Association within the County, appointed by the Chair of the County Council;
- (11) One representative from a civic association, appointed by the Chair of the County Council;
- (12) One representative of the Prince George's County Board of Education or designee; and
 - (13) One representative of the County Council.
 - (14) One representative from the dyslexia community.
- (15) One representative from a literacy-focused non-profit working on Prekindergarten programs.
- (f) The Chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the consent of the Chair of the County Council.
- (g) All representatives or designees must report to the County Council within sixty (60) days of the adoption of this resolution, specifying who the representative shall be. The Chair of

the County Council shall also make all required appointments within sixty (60) days.

- (h) The Commission shall commence its duties within ninety (90) days of the adoption of this resolution.
- (i) No member will receive compensation, but may receive reimbursement for expenses under Standard State Travel regulations as provided by the County Budget.
 - (j) The Legislative Branch shall provide staff and technical support to the Commission.
- (k) The Commission shall submit its preliminary strategic recommendations, initiatives, and findings to the County Council no later than March 27, 2026. The Commission shall then provide a final recommendation, initiative, and plan focused on improving literacy rates within the County by June 2, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission's duties shall have an initial term expiring June 3, 2026. If the County Council, through a majority vote, finds the commission's continued duty advantageous to the County, it may be reauthorized for subsequent years by County Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the Council to the enumerated County departments, County delegations, institutions, and appointed organizations or individuals.

Adopted this	_ day of		, 2025.
			COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
			GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
		BY:	
			Edward P. Burroughs III
			Chair
ATTEST:			
ATTEST.			
Donno I Duoren			
Donna J. Brown Clerk of the Council			
Clerk of the Council			