

## Abstract

**Goal:** Maryland will expand the existing Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities (MVLO) program by increasing the number of high-quality online courses to meet the needs of Maryland’s public and non-public students. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) anticipates that COVID-19 will change the future of education and recognizes that students and educators need to adapt and evolve.

**Project objectives and activities:** (1) Transform teaching and learning for “future schools.” (2) Use evidence-based research, workforce needs, and student data to support the selection and development of a wide range of high-quality online and/or blended courses for Maryland’s public and non-public students. (3) Address the needs of all student subgroups by designing accessible courses based on Universal Design for Learning principles and WCAG 2.1 guidelines. (4) Provide the professional learning needed for Maryland educators to facilitate the delivery of courses that incorporate social emotional learning (SEL) opportunities. (4) Expand advanced learning opportunities for students in rural and urban areas. (5) Provide access to the State Learning Management System for Local Educational Agencies that do not have the funds to purchase their own. (6) Ensure timely and transparent communication with stakeholders.

**Project Plans:** Develop sixteen high-quality online and/or blended courses, including foreign language, mathematics, data science, cybersecurity, fourth and fifth grade science and social studies courses that incorporate computer science. Provide deep content and pedagogy professional learning modules and courses for educators to support the delivery of student courses/modules. Utilize funding to contract with an instructional design team consisting of diverse expertise such as content, accessibility, online instructional design, and industry experts. The instructional design team will develop interactive courses that include SEL, ensure accessibility, and align with Maryland standards and curriculum.