

NEWS RELEASE



Maryland Public Television

11767 Owings Mills Blvd. | Owings Mills, MD 21117 | mpt.org

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For immediate release

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MEDIA ADVISORY

MPT to launch Maryland Center for Media Literacy & Education on November 19

Participants include Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore and FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez

OWINGS MILLS, MD – Members of the media are invited to attend – in person or via livestream – Maryland Public Television's (MPT) one-hour live program to introduce its new Maryland Center for Media Literacy & Education (Center). To attend in-person, please RSVP to tomwilliams@mpt.org. Interviews are available at the program's conclusion.

An expansion of MPT's long-standing Education Division, the Center will address the challenges and impacts of today's media-saturated society and support the well-being of Maryland citizens. Center programs and resources will empower Marylanders to effectively navigate media in a digital world.

Date/Time: Tuesday, November 19 at 11 a.m.

Location: The Irene and Edward H. Kaplan Production Studio at Maryland Public Television, 11767 Owings Mills Blvd., Owings Mills, MD 21117

Livestream: The launch event will be live-streamed at 11 a.m. on mpt.org/media.literacy (link will go live Nov. 19) and will be available on this website page following the event.

Hosts: [Frank Sesno](#), former CNN correspondent, anchor, and Washington bureau chief, and current director of strategic initiatives and professor at the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University; and [Kelsey Russell](#), a national media literacy influencer and co-host of [First Stop News](#).

Participants: The program will feature --

- [Maryland First Lady Dawn Moore](#), who will speak to the need for essential media literacy skills and the necessity to be aware of children's digital media use
- [FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez](#) and [Sheppard Pratt President and CEO Harsh K. Trivedi, MD](#), who will participate in a conversation about the intersection of media literacy, technology, and mental health
- Student voices about media literacy in videos from [Stevenson University](#), the [DC International School](#), and [Benjamin Tasker Middle School](#) in Bowie, Maryland

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Why:**The need for media literacy at every age is vital –**

- Social media is cited as the top source of news and information for adults and teens
- Nearly half of teenagers age 13-17 say they are online “almost constantly”
- 55% of students are not confident in their ability to recognize false information online
- 69% of parents fear their child is sharing private information on social media without realizing it
- 94% of teens want their schools to teach media literacy
- Older adults reported losing more than \$1.9 billion to fraud in 2023

(Sources: Pew Research Center, 2022; News Literacy Project, 2022; C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital National Poll, 2021; News Literacy Project, May 2024; FTC Annual Report to Congress, 2024)

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