

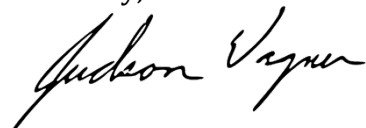
Dear members of the Joint Legislative Oversight and Sunset Committee:

My name is Jud Wagner and I have been a Delaware educator for 21 years. Currently, I teach Physics and Engineering at Brandywine High School and believe strongly in public education. From 2010 to 2016, I took a leave from the classroom to join Brandywine School District's Race to the Top team where I was charged to build out a new K-12 STEM education program. Among other duties assigned, I was to revitalize the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and restructure our Instructional Technology plan to support blended and personalized learning. These initiatives drew me into a statewide network of educational leaders including the State Board of Education. Like me, these leaders believed in educational reforms focused on today's students to better prepare them for an increasingly technical and globally connected world. As I worked to implement these programs in my district, the State Board of Education lent an ear to bold ideas and helped hash out common visions. Let me take a moment to mention a few initiatives that I was fortunate to be a part of that the SBE is fully aware of.

- The establishment of the Delaware STEM Council by Executive Order 15 of former Governor Jack Markel which helped define STEM for thousands of Delawareans and ultimately established a sustainable network small and large businesses owners and educators found in K-12 school, institutions of higher education, and informal out-of-school settings; all of whom believe in a strong Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education for all Delaware students.
- The adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards and the strategic planning involved in implementing a K-12 content and practice rich curriculum that is internationally benchmarked.
- The establishment of the Office of STEM and CTE within the Department of Education which continually develops state model programs of study which now make it easy for districts to adopt CTE programs that have value added opportunities for students that include work based learning, industry recognized certifications, and college recognized credit.
- The creation of BRINC which is a multi-district consortium that is greater than the sum of its parts when it comes to establishing a common vision for personalized and blended learning and increasing student access to technology in the classroom.

These are just a few examples of how education in Delaware has improved with the Delaware State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judson Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Judson Wagner, Ed.D