



Joint Finance Committee Hearing

February 2025





Meyer Administration Values

INTEGRITY

Actions speak louder than words - actions build trust. We will lead with transparency and accountability to ensure every decision serves the public good.

EFFICIENCY

Government should work smarter, not harder. We will eliminate waste, streamline services, and prioritize execution over excuses.

COLLABORATION

Lasting change requires teamwork. We will break down silos, build strong partnerships, and deliver solutions that work.

Governor's Education Priorities

- Improving student outcomes
- Updating antiquated education funding system
- Supporting teachers
- Workforce development



Staffing

- 303.5 authorized FTE positions
- 28 current vacancies
 - Longest vacancy is 28 months (prison education position).
 - All other positions have been open fewer than 21 months.



Performance Outcomes

	2019	2024	
State assessment	English language arts (ELA)	53%	40%
	Mathematics	44%	33%

	Reading	Reading	Change	Math	Math	Change	
	2022	2024	22-24	2022	2024	22-24	
NAEP	Grade 4	208	210	+2	226	233	+7
	Grade 8	253	249	-4	264	263	-1

Graduation rates 88.9% (up from 87.79 the year prior)

Drop-out rates 3.9% (up from 2.5 percent the year prior)

Chronic absenteeism 19.63% in 2024 (compared to Delaware's low of 13.24% in 2019 and peak of 24.77% in 2022)



The Delaware Vision of Early Literacy

One Vision - One Voice

Academic Support Team





Vision and Mission



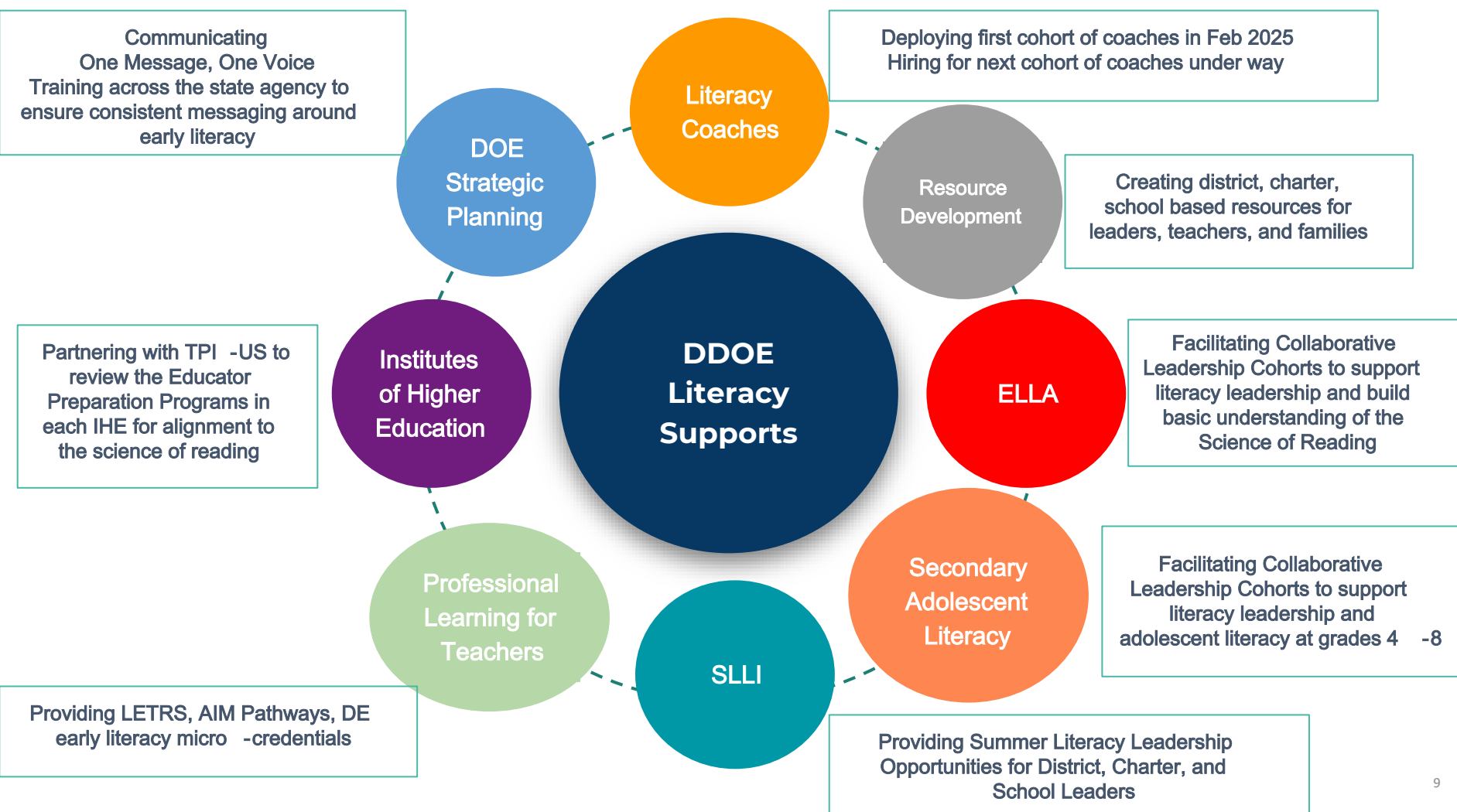
Vision: Our instructional vision is that every student across the state of Delaware leaves school ready for success in college, career, and life. **In early literacy specifically, all students will read at grade level by the end of third grade, providing them with the foundation to become strong readers, writers, thinkers, and speakers.**

Mission: Delaware will define effective literacy instruction and the vital role of curriculum-based professional learning in effective implementation to provide focused guidance and resources to support teachers and school districts.

Investing in Early Literacy: Legislation

Bill	Details
SB4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of state-approved adoption list for evidence-based, reading instruction curriculum for grades K-3 Job-embedded, competency-based PL on reading curricula for all educators involved in teaching reading DDOE and districts/charters must report annually on the state of adoptions and professional learning
HB304	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a state list of universal reading screeners and literacy intervention approaches Educators must be given time during the day to administer and receive professional learning on universal reading screeners. DDOE and districts must report annually on the the number and percentage of students identified with a potential reading deficiency and the literacy intervention approaches being provided.
SB133	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher preparation programs must provide instruction in evidence-based reading instruction. Minimum number of hours of training that instructors in educator preparation programs must complete in evidence-based reading instruction.







Secondary Literacy

We envision an excellent education in English/Language Arts and Literacy in which all Delaware students, in grades 4-8, see themselves as effective communicators and critical thinkers who read, write, speak, and listen across disciplines. Students engage with complex texts to build knowledge and express their ideas through discourse and in writing grounded in text evidence.

Through high-quality literacy materials and instruction, all students will develop the necessary skills to become fluent, skilled readers so they can problem solve and think critically in service of becoming productive citizens who can analyze perspectives that both conform to, and challenge, their worldview.

Delaware Literacy Coalition

Strategic Plan for Grades 4-8

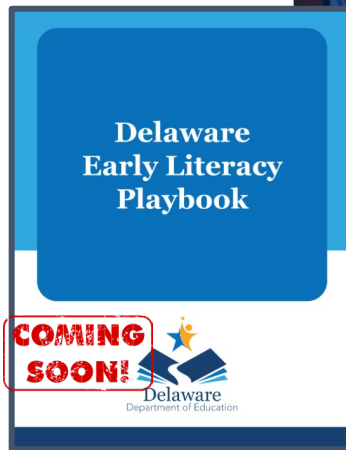
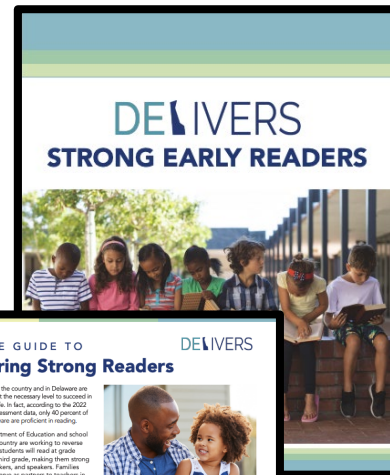
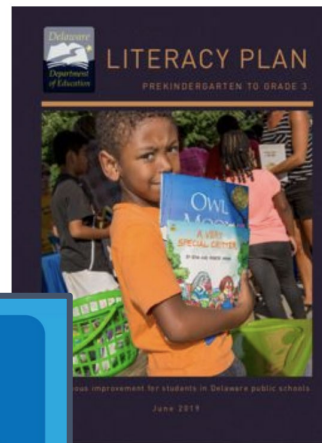
In partnership with





Early Literacy Resources (School Systems & Families)

The [Delaware Strong Readers Guide](#) for school system leaders and the [At-Home Guide to Delivering Strong Readers](#) for families are now available in Digital DE.



AT-HOME GUIDE TO Delivering Strong Readers

DELIVERS

Many students across the country and in Delaware are not learning to read at the necessary level to succeed in college, career, and life. In fact, according to the 2022 Smarter Balanced assessment data, only 42 percent of third graders in Delaware are proficient in reading.

The Delaware Department of Education and school systems across the country are working to reverse this trend so that all students will read at grade level by the end of third grade, making them strong readers, writers, thinkers, and speakers. Families and Congress can serve as partners to teachers in fostering literacy and a love of reading.

This guide provides an overview of how families and caregivers can support their children's literacy development at home.

Understanding Literacy

What is literacy?

- BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE**
The information students have about a topic.
- COMPREHENSION**
The ability to understand, remember, and make meaning of what has been read.
- FLUENCY**
The ability to read texts accurately, quickly, and expressively, either to oneself or aloud.
- ORAL LANGUAGE**
The ability to use spoken words to express knowledge, ideas, and feelings.
- PHONIC AWARENESS**
The ability to hear, identify, manipulate, and substitute the sounds that make up speech.
- PHONICS**
The ability to break down words into sounds and abilities to connect sounds to letters with the words students hear & speak daily.
- VOCABULARY**
The ability to use and understand words.
- WRITING**
The ability to convey thoughts and ideas in a readable form.

Why are these skills important?

Students who struggle with basic reading use a lot of time and energy to get through simple passages and continue to have difficulty comprehending what they read, which is the true purpose of reading.

Students must receive instruction that introduces them to all seven components of literacy to build their foundational reading skills.

Building early literacy skills before grade 3 creates a foundation for children to competently and confidently read and write throughout the course of their education and lives.

Delaware Department of Education 2023



Early Childhood Care and Education Major Initiatives

Early Childhood Support Team

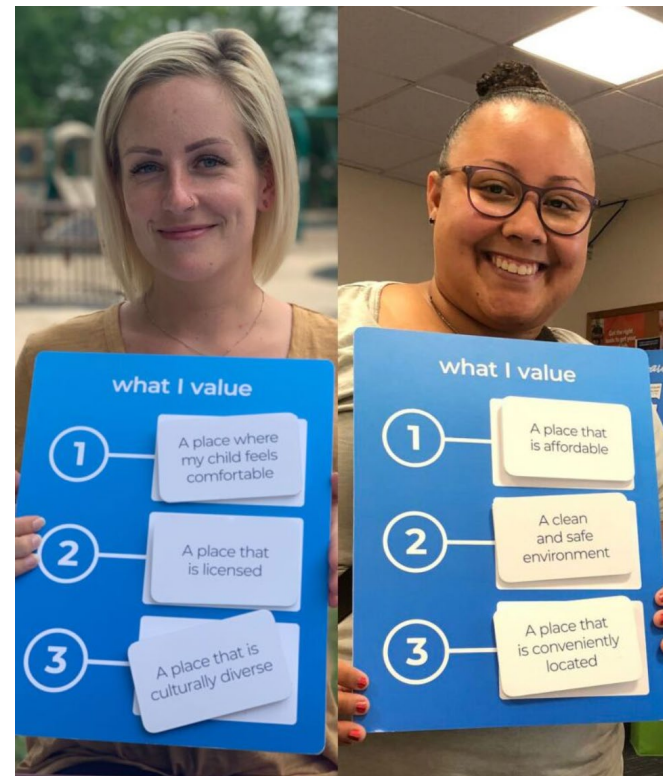


Early Childhood Support Team

The ECS team supports all families and their children, birth through five, by providing equitable access to high-quality programs and services for care and education.

Delaware currently has 913 licensed child care and 43 public early education programs:

- 417 Family and Large Family Child Care
- 468 Early Care and Education and School-Age Centers (including Head Start programs)
- 43 Early Education Programs



Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL)



- Promulgates regulations, issues licenses, and monitors all early care and education programs
- Investigates complaint allegations of regulatory non-compliance

Office of Early Childhood Intervention (OEI)

- Implements the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) under Part C and Part B, (section 619)
- Manages universal developmental screening



Office of Early Learning (OEL)



- Manages standards, evaluation, and supports for early childhood professionals and the Quality Improvement System
 - State Funded Early Care and Education Programs (funded as ECAP and Redding)
 - Head Start and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships
 - Parents as Teachers Home Visiting
 - Credentialing, scholarships, and professional development



Educator Pipelines

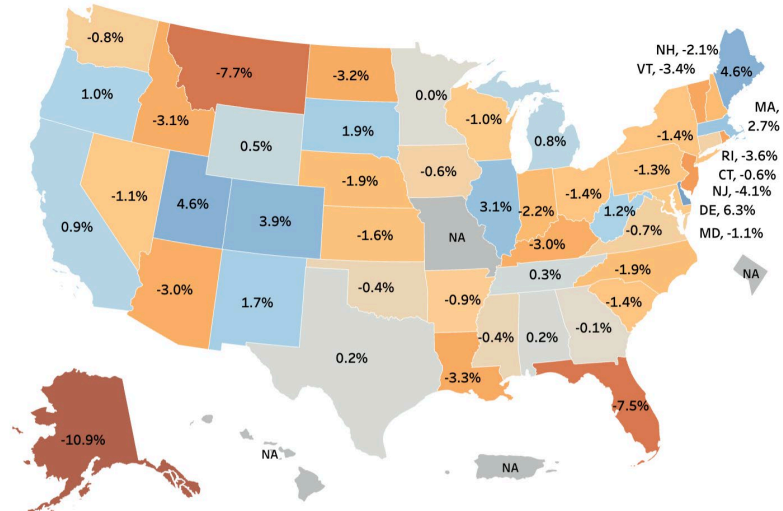
Workforce Support Team



Educator Pipelines

- Growing our Educator Workforce
- Pathways for High School and College Students
- Options for Current Workforce
- Supporting Educators for Retention

US Department of
Education Report: Pre-
Pandemic (AY 18-19) to
2024 (AY 23-24)





High School Paths to Teaching

Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs of study (Delaware Pathways) enrolls 68% of public high school students across 26 state-approved programs

- All programs include at least 3 sequenced courses, early postsecondary credit options, industry-recognized credential(s), and work-based learning opportunities
- Additional state-approved local models exist

Teacher Academy (House Bill 332) prepares future early childhood and K-12 educators

- Approximately 3,700 students participated across 32 public education high schools
- Students can earn up to 21 college credits and multiple certifications



College Paths to Teaching

Earn and Learn Options

- **Teaching Apprenticeships** (House Bill 138)
- **Paid teacher residencies** (House Bill 178) offer stipends in exchange for a 3-year Delaware teaching requirement
- LEAs braid local funding to expand residencies and/or increase salaries for a **strategic staffing model**

College Access and Support

- **State-sponsored career scholarships** to target future and current educators
- Support for College and University **Education Provider Programs**



Current Workforce Options

Partnerships with LEAs

- **Grow Your Own Program** (House Bill 430) incentivizes paraprofessionals to complete educational requirements to become a teacher
- Support for localized **Teacher Recruitment and Retention Plans**

Expanded Teacher Licensure Options

- Support for College and University **ARTC programs**
- Use of **“Multiple Measures”** to earn an Educator Licensure
- Support long-term substitutes with **“91 Days in Lieu of Student Teaching”** to satisfy licensure requirements



Retention Efforts

Educator Mentoring, Growth, and Knowledge

- **Comprehensive Induction Program** for teachers and specialists
- **Administrator Induction Program** for school leaders
- **Delaware Teacher Growth and Support System (DTGSS)** for ongoing formative meetings and annual summative feedback
- **Teacher Leadership** models in partnership with Wilmington Learning Collaborative and Rodel
- Ongoing **High Quality Professional Learning** for educators and school leaders



RECOMMENDED Operating Budget



Delaware
Department of Education



Recommended Operating Budget

FY25 GF Budget	\$2,156,827.7
FY26 Recommended GF Budget	\$2,354,516.5
\$ Increase	\$197,688.8
% Increase	9.16%

Excludes DACCTE (95-06)



FY26 Recommended Budget Reallocations

FY25 Salary and OEC Contingency

FY25 General Contingency

**Reallocations Between DOE and District and
Charter Operations**



FY26 Recommended Budget

95-01 Department of Education

95-01-02 - Academic Support

Digital Learning Operations	\$45.7
------------------------------------	---------------

95-01-04 - Workforce Support

Personnel Costs	\$168.8
------------------------	----------------

Operations	\$25.0
-------------------	---------------



FY26 Recommended Budget

95-01 Department of Education

95-01-05 – Operations Support

Contractual Services	\$833.8
-----------------------------	----------------

95-01-30 – Professional Standards Board

Professional Standards Board	\$50.0
-------------------------------------	---------------



FY26 Recommended Budget 95-02 District & Charter Operations

95-02-01 - Division Funding

Personnel Costs	\$1,171.7
------------------------	------------------

Division II – All Other Costs	\$1,100.0
--------------------------------------	------------------

Cafeteria Funds	\$3,651.6
------------------------	------------------



FY26 Recommended Budget 95-02 District & Charter Operations

95-02-02 - Other Items

General Contingency	\$25,168.3
----------------------------	-------------------

Mental Health Services	\$13,407.5
-------------------------------	-------------------

Opportunity Funding	\$3,840.4
----------------------------	------------------



FY26 Recommended Budget 95-02 District & Charter Operations

95-02-02 - Other Items (cont'd)

Child Safety Awareness	\$3.5
<hr/>	
Child Nutrition	\$5.0
<hr/>	



FY26 Recommended Budget 95-02 District & Charter Operations

95-02-05 - Education Block Grants

Academic Excellence	\$4,369.6
----------------------------	------------------

Student Success Block Grant	\$718.0
------------------------------------	----------------

95-02-06 - Public School Transportation

Public School Transportation	\$5,723.0
-------------------------------------	------------------



FY26 Recommended Budget

95-03 Pass Through & Support Programs

95-03-30 – Driver Training

Driver's Education	\$417.3
---------------------------	----------------

95-03-40 - Scholarships

SEED Scholarship	\$1,000.0
-------------------------	------------------

Inspire Scholarship	\$2,269.0
----------------------------	------------------



Questions?



Delaware
Department of Education