



SPONSOR: Rep. Yearick & Sen. Pettyjohn
Reps. Hilovsky, Postles; Sens. Hocker, Lawson, Wilson

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF DELAWARE PROVIDE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION BY ADDRESSING FUNDING, IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, STANDARDIZED TESTING, AND SCHOOL SAFETY AND CLIMATE TO THE 153RD DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1 WHEREAS, in 1940 Delaware instated its current resource-based funding system for public education and today
2 the outdated system is causing Delaware students to fall behind their peers across the country academically; and

3 WHEREAS, only 8 percent of Delaware's state funding for public schools is considered flexible and school
4 districts are not able to allocate funds to the areas that need it most due because under the resource-based funding formula
5 the state decides how school districts are to allocate their funding by setting their budget; and

6 WHEREAS, Delaware is one of only 6 other states to use the resource-based funding formula while over 40 other
7 states utilize a student-based funding formula which allows districts to budget the funding allocated to them by the state
8 based on the specific needs of their students; and

9 WHEREAS, a report released by the Delaware Department of Education reflects the outcomes of Delaware's rigid
10 funding system in the 2022-2023 school year as only 41 percent of students from grades 3-8 were proficient in English
11 language arts and 31 percent of students were proficient in math from grades 3-8; and

12 WHEREAS, these findings emphasize the Delaware's need to improve proficiency in English and math by
13 exploring policy options such as the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) passed by the Mississippi General Assembly in
14 2013; and

15 WHEREAS, the LBPA targets the schools with students struggling the most in English and deploys literacy
16 coaches that provide professional development to teachers and administrators in teaching reading; and

17 WHEREAS, nearly 85 percent of Mississippi third graders in the 2022-2023 now pass the reading assessment as a
18 direct result of the LBPA; and

19 WHEREAS, it is not only necessary to improve the proficiency levels of Delaware students but also how the state
20 measures performance through standardized testing reform; and

21 WHEREAS, the Delaware System of Student Assessment (DeSSA), PSAT, and SAT are all required to be taken
22 by Delaware students; and

23 WHEREAS, other states have reduced the time of their standardized testing, such as Pennsylvania who reduced
24 the length of their tests by 20 percent, while still maintaining the state and federal standards for measuring student progress
25 and achievement; and

26 WHEREAS, the reduction in time spent preparing for and taking standardized tests allows for less disruption of
27 learning for students who are taking the assessment as well as those who are not; and

28 WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Education found that 142,156 students are enrolled in preschool through
29 12th grade and 79 percent of those students were on-track in attendance for the 2022-2023; and

30 WHEREAS, in order to increase enrollment and attendance Delaware needs to assess school safety and climate
31 which are essential to student success; and

32 WHEREAS, finally this report exposed room for improvement in that 88 percent of the class of 2022 graduated
33 high school in four years with a regular high school diploma and 85 percent of students finished 12th grade college and
34 career ready; and

35 WHEREAS, Delaware needs to reassess its graduation requirements and provide more secondary education and/or
36 professional preparation for students to prepare them for success post-graduation; and

37 WHEREAS, the American Legislative Exchange Council ranked Delaware 37th in the nation for education based
38 on state academic standards, charter schools, homeschool regulation burden, private school choice, teacher quality, and
39 digital learning; and

40 WHEREAS, this ranking reflects poorly on Delaware and shows the disservice that the state's current education
41 system is to students; and

42 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Delaware to update and improve its public education system to better serve
43 Delaware students.

44 NOW, THEREFORE:

45 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
46 Senate concurring therein, that we request the Governor of Delaware provide their recommendations for the future of
47 education by addressing funding, improving academic performance, standardized testing, and school safety and climate to
48 the 153rd Delaware General Assembly by June 30, 2025.

SYNOPSIS

This resolution requests the Governor of Delaware provide recommendations for the future of education by addressing funding, improving academic performance, standardized testing, and school safety and climate to the 153rd Delaware General Assembly by June 30, 2025.