One year ago, VISION 2015 invited you to IMAGINE ... the best schools in the world for every Delaware student ... no exceptions ... no excuses.

Look inside to find out how we’re making it happen.

VISION 2015 BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Highlights of Vision 2015’s Progress

November 2005
Vision 2015 Steering Committee holds first meeting.

February–September 2006
Citizens engage in more than 50 meetings statewide on Vision 2015.

October 2006

January 2007
Governor Ruth Ann Minner commends Vision 2015 in her State of the State address.

February 2007
Vision 2015 publishes its first e-newsletter.

February–April 2007

June 2007
Governor Minner’s Executive Order No. 98 establishes the Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware (LEAD) Committee.

June 2007
Delaware General Assembly passes Senate Joint Resolution 7, supporting Vision 2015 and the LEAD Committee.

June 2007
Delaware Early Childhood Council, which reflects the priorities of Vision 2015, is written into law.

June 2007
Delaware Business Roundtable invests $2.9 million in Vision 2015 and the Rodel Foundation commits an additional $2 million.

August 2007
First group of districts and schools joins Vision Network.

August 2007
LEAD Committee begins work on cost efficiency analysis and school funding study.

October 2007
Vision Network school administrators and teacher leaders begin executive leadership training program.
One year ago, **VISION 2015** invited you to **IMAGINE** ... the best schools in the world for every Delaware student ... no exceptions ... no excuses.

**VISION 2015** BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

**Highlights of Vision 2015’s Progress**

- **November 2005**
  Vision 2015 Steering Committee holds first meeting.

- **February–September 2006**
  Citizens engage in more than 50 meetings statewide on Vision 2015.

- **October 2006**

- **January 2007**
  Governor Ruth Ann Minner commends Vision 2015 in her State of the State address.

- **February 2007**
  Vision 2015 publishes its first e-newsletter.

- **February–April 2007**

- **June 2007**
  Governor Minner’s Executive Order No. 98 establishes the Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware (LEAD) Committee.

- **June 2007**
  Delaware General Assembly passes Senate Joint Resolution 7, supporting Vision 2015 and the LEAD Committee.

- **June 2007**
  Delaware Early Childhood Council, which reflects the priorities of Vision 2015, is written into law.

- **June 2007**
  Delaware Business Roundtable invests $2.9 million in Vision 2015 and the Rodel Foundation commits an additional $2 million.

- **August 2007**
  First group of districts and schools joins Vision Network.

- **August 2007**
  LEAD Committee begins work on cost efficiency analysis and school funding study.

- **October 2007**
  Vision Network school administrators and teacher leaders begin executive leadership training program.
Delaware is building the foundation for a world-class education system — a foundation that is strong and adaptable enough to prepare our students to thrive in our rapidly changing global economy. Vision 2015 is a vital part of that effort.

The following report summarizes what the Vision 2015 Implementation Team — in collaboration with our education and business partners, public officials, and Delawareans statewide — has accomplished over the past 12 months.

“It’s an exciting time for education reform in Delaware and across the nation. The planets are aligned. The energy is palpable as we look forward to improve schools.”


Putting World-Class Policies in Place. In her State of the State address, Governor Minner called the Vision 2015 plan “a bold, creative blueprint to support our goal of making our schools the best in the world.” Several actions are moving us closer to that goal.

The Governor included $3.9 million in her FY 2008 budget recommendations for programs aligned with Vision 2015, including seed funding for an online, 24/7 virtual school and support for enhanced quality early childhood education.

The Governor’s Executive Order No. 98 established the Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware (LEAD) Committee (see back cover to:

- help develop an easy-to-understand “performance dashboard” with at-a-glance information on how well individual schools, districts, and the state are meeting student achievement and other goals;
- produce a report by December 1, 2007 on how Delaware spends public education funds with recommendations on how those dollars could be spent more efficiently; and
- produce a report by March 15, 2008 that offers better ways of generating and distributing education dollars, including consideration of a weighted funding formula that accounts for individual student needs.

Both houses of the General Assembly unanimously passed Senate Joint Resolution 7, which offers support for Vision 2015 and encourages cooperation with the LEAD Committee.

Legislation has been introduced to implement the early childhood quality rating and improvement system, Delaware Stars for Early Success, as specified in the Vision 2015 plan. The General Assembly codified the Governor’s Early Childhood Council, which has created a comprehensive plan to give every child a strong start, improve program participation and quality, and publicly elevate the importance of early childhood education.

We also believed that just as Vision 2015 holds everyone at every level of our education system accountable for results, our implementation team also should provide a public accounting of what we have done. Keeping in mind our true measure of success — increasing student achievement — we directed our first-year efforts toward necessary, realistic goals that will set a strong foundation for the systemwide changes to come.

Of course, our work has only begun. We look forward to continued progress for Vision 2015 in the years ahead until we have achieved our goal of a world-class education for every Delaware student. And I know that is what Vision 2015 is trying to bring about.”

— Carol King-Ries, mother of two school-age children, Vision 2015 Release Event, October 17, 2006

Bringing “Best Practice” Teaching and Learning to Delaware Classrooms. Beginning in fall 2007, the Vision Network of schools and districts is beginning to implement Vision 2015 recommendations and research-based instructional and organizational practices. Ten public schools have formed the first cohort of the Vision Network — two schools each from Appoquinimink, Capital, Indian River, and New Castle County Vocational Technical districts, as well as Kuumba Academy and MOT charter schools.

Leaders from these districts and schools will spend the 2007–08 school year:

- learning first-hand how high-performing schools and districts work,
- receiving training to help them improve organizational skills, and
- taking a hard look at their performance data and developing targeted strategies to meet their students’ individual needs.
Delaware is building the foundation for a world-class education system — a foundation that is strong and adaptable enough to prepare our students to thrive in our rapidly changing global economy. Vision 2015 is a vital part of that effort. The following report summarizes what the Vision 2015 Implementation Team — in collaboration with our education and business partners, public officials, and Delawareans statewide — has accomplished over the past 12 months.

“It’s an exciting time for education reform in Delaware and across the nation. The planets are aligned. The energy is palpable as organizations, such as the National Governors Association, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and our own Vision 2015, have stepped forward to improve schools.”


Putting World-Class Policies in Place. In her State of the State address, Governor Minner called the Vision 2015 plan “a bold, creative blueprint to support our goal of making our schools the best in the world.” Several actions are moving us closer to that goal.

The Governor included $3.9 million in her FY 2008 budget recommendations for programs aligned with Vision 2015, including seed funding for an online, 24/7 virtual school and support for enhanced quality early childhood education.

The Governor’s Executive Order No. 98 established the Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware (LEAD) Committee (see back cover) to:

nutan develop an easy-to-understand “performance dashboard” with at-a-glance information on how well individual schools, districts, and the state are meeting student achievement and other goals;

produce a report by December 1, 2007 on how Delaware spends public education funds with recommendations on how those dollars could be spent more efficiently; and

produce a report by March 15, 2008 that offers better ways of generating and distributing education dollars, including consideration of a weighted funding formula that accounts for individual student needs.

Both houses of the General Assembly unanimously passed Senate Joint Resolution 7 which offers support for Vision 2015 and encourages cooperation with the LEAD Committee.

Legislation has been introduced to implement the early childhood quality rating and improvement system, Delaware Stars for Early Success, as specified in the Vision 2015 plan. The General Assembly codified the Governor’s Early Childhood Council, which has created a comprehensive plan to give every child a strong start, improve program participation and quality, and publicly elevate the importance of early childhood education.

Vision 2015 means setting our sights high, with challenging expectations for every educator, parent, and child.

It means investing in high-quality early childhood education for more children with the greatest need.

It means developing and supporting great teachers in every classroom.

It means empowering principals to be great school leaders with the knowledge, authority, and flexibility to get results.

It means encouraging instructional innovation and more learning options including school choice and involving families to support their children’s learning. And it means requiring accountability across the system, including for students and parents.

It means establishing a simple and fair funding system so each school can meet the learning needs of all of its students.

Vision 2015 in the News

Imagine the best schools in the world... no exceptions, no excuses. Vision 2015 calls for expanding families to education.

New view of schools starts with rethinking where money goes.

Challenges: Keeping top teachers teaching.

“I want to choose the Delaware public school system for my children because it is the best choice in Delaware. And I know that is what [Vision] 2015 is trying to bring about.”

— Carol King-Ries, mother of two school-age children, Vision 2015 Release Event, October 17, 2006

Bringing “Best Practice” Teaching and Learning to Delaware Classrooms. Beginning in fall 2007 the Vision Network of schools and districts is beginning to implement Vision 2015 recommendations and research-based instructional and organizational practices. Ten public schools have formed the first cohort of the Vision Network — two schools each from Appoquinimink, Capital, Indian River, and New Castle County Vocational-Technical districts, as well as Kuumba Academy and MOT charter schools.

Leaders from these districts and schools will spend the 2007–08 school year:

learning first-hand how high-performing schools and districts work;

receiving training to help them improve organizational skills, and

taking a hard look at their performance data and developing targeted strategies to meet their students’ individual needs.

Making the Vision a Reality: A Message from the Vision 2015 Implementation Team

When we released the Vision 2015 plan on October 17, 2006, we understood that it was the beginning, not the end of our work. The result of many months of collaboration by a team of educators, business and community leaders, parents, and other stakeholders, Vision 2015 set a clear and comprehensive course toward our goal of world-class schools for every Delaware student. At the same time, our plan presented strong evidence that the goal is of vital importance to the future of our children and our state. We were aware that we had to begin at once to make the Vision a reality.

We also believed that just as Vision 2015 holds everyone at every level of our education system accountable for results, our implementation team also should provide a public accounting of what we have done. Keeping in mind our true measure of success — increasing student achievement — we directed our first-year efforts toward necessary, real-world targeted strategies to meet our students’ individual needs. Not only do we believe that targeted strategies will improve student achievement, but we also believe that it is the beginning, not the end, of our work. The result of our work thus far only begins to tell us what we know is the most important issue in education today.

We Want to Hear From You!

Please visit www.Vision2015Delaware.org/ tellus and tell us what you think is the most important issue in education today.

Find Out More

100 W. 10th Street, c/o Suite 4
Wilmingon, DE 19801
302-504-5240
Training will be provided by the University of Delaware Academy for School Leadership and the acclaimed consulting firm Focus on Results. Leaders also will investigate best practices in the United States and abroad.

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, districts and schools will receive grants and increased flexibility to implement Vision 2015 recommendations.

So far, nearly 80 percent of districts and about half of the charter schools have expressed interest in the Vision Network. We look forward to the day when all of Delaware’s districts and public schools will be involved in the Network.

**Building Partnerships to Support World-Class Transformations.** Vision 2015 has generated substantial investments from public and private sources (see box) to implement its recommendations in our schools.

- Governor Minner included $3.9 million in her FY 2008 budget to support initiatives aligned with Vision 2015, including the launch of the Delaware Virtual School and early childhood education.
- Twenty members of the Delaware Business Roundtable committed $2.9 million to Vision 2015 with specific support for the cost efficiency study and launch of the Vision Network, Delaware Virtual School, and Delaware Stars for Early Success program.
- The Rodel Foundation also doubled its initial investment in Vision 2015, for a total contribution of more than $4 million to date. Funds will be used for best practice research, the launch of the Vision Network, seed grants, and operational support to Vision 2015 and LEAD.
- Generous funding and support also has been committed by JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Delaware Department of Education, and the University of Delaware. These investments primarily will support the Vision Network.

Generous funding and support also has been committed by JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Delaware Department of Education, and the University of Delaware. These investments primarily will support the Vision Network.

“[The Vision Network is] going to make the schools in Delaware take a good look at themselves and see where they want to be in 2015. Some people don’t like change, but I love it. There are times when you need a breath of fresh air.”


**Generating Awareness and Support for Education Excellence.** Since the release of the Vision 2015 report in October 2006, we have held more than 30 forums and presentations with business, community, and parent groups to talk about public education in Delaware and how Vision 2015 can accelerate student achievement. We have met with the Delaware PTA, Delaware State Education Association, county and state Chambers of Commerce, the Delaware School Boards Association, several Rotary International groups, the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, and the Delaware Teachers Network Leadership Institute, among many other local and national groups.

“The whole state needs to understand the significance and importance of education. I think Vision 2015 really provides the opportunity. I think it’s a fully-defined, complete vision of what can be done. For that reason, I think we need to stay very focused and engaged in it.”

— Michael Castle, U. S. Representative (R-Delaware)

We also inform and engage the public with our Vision 2015 website, www.Vision2015Delaware.org. Interactive features on the site include community event postings and an opportunity to “share your story,” plus surveys and videos. Our twice-monthly e-newsletter provides updates on Vision 2015 and education news from around the state and nation to more than 3,000 readers in Delaware and across the country.

Our website and e-newsletter report on best practices in Delaware classrooms — for example, schools that benefit from extended learning time or family-school relations coordinators. Our electronic media also feature perspectives on public education in Delaware from parents and teachers.

Delaware media have been supportive in helping inform the public about Vision 2015. In spring 2007, a 10-part series in The News Journal on research and best practices related to Vision 2015 generated high reader response and invigorated public interest in transforming the state education system. The first meeting of the LEAD Committee and the launch of the Vision Network also prompted media coverage nationally and throughout our state.

Generous Supporters of Vision 2015 Include:

- AAA Mid-Atlantic
- AstraZeneca
- Bank of America
- Barclays Bank Delaware
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware
- CAI
- Christiana Care Health Services
- Citizens Bank
- Colonial Parking, Inc.
- Delaware Department of Education
- Delmarva Power
- Dover Downs, Inc.
- DuPont
- Glenmede Trust Company, N.A.
- Hercules Incorporated
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- McConnell Development, Inc.
- Peninsula Capital Advisors, LLC
- PNC Foundation
- Rodol Foundation of Delaware
- The Schell Trust, Ltd.
- University of Delaware
- Verizon Delaware, Inc.
- The Walters Foundation
- WSFS Foundation

Informing and Engaging the Public through Our Website and E-Newsletter
Training will be provided by the University of Delaware Academy for School Leadership and the acclaimed consulting firm Focus on Results. Leaders also will investigate best practices in the United States and abroad.

Beginning with the 2008-09 school year, districts and schools will receive grants and increased flexibility to implement Vision 2015 recommendations.

So far, nearly 80 percent of districts and about half of the charter schools have expressed interest in the Vision Network. We look forward to the day when all of Delaware's districts and public schools will be involved in the Network.

**Building Partnerships to Support World-Class Transformations.** Vision 2015 has generated substantial investments from public and private sources (see box) to implement its recommendations in our schools.

- Governor Minner included $3.9 million in her FY 2008 budget to support initiatives aligned with Vision 2015, including the launch of the Delaware Virtual School and early childhood education.
- Twenty members of the Delaware Business Roundtable committed $2.9 million to Vision 2015 with specific support for the cost efficiency study and launch of the Vision Network, Delaware Virtual School, and Delaware Stars for Early Success program.
- The Rodel Foundation also doubled its initial investment in Vision 2015 for a total contribution of more than $4 million to date. Funds will be used for best practice research, the launch of the Vision Network, seed grants, and operational support to Vision 2015 and LEAD.
- Generous funding and support also has been committed by JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the Delaware Department of Education, and the University of Delaware. These investments primarily will support the Vision Network.

Since the release of the Vision 2015 report in October 2006, we have held more than 30 forums and presentations with business, community, and parent groups to talk about public education in Delaware and how Vision 2015 can accelerate student achievement. We have met with the Delaware PTA, Delaware State Education Association, county and state Chambers of Commerce, the Delaware School Boards Association, several Rotary International groups, the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, and the Delaware Teachers Network Leadership Institute, among many other local and national groups.

"The whole state needs to understand the significance and importance of education. I think Vision 2015 really provides the opportunity. I think it's a fully-defined, complete vision of what can be done. For that reason, I think we need to stay very focused and engaged in it."

— Michael Castle, U. S. Representative (R-Delaware)

Generous Supporters of Vision 2015 Include:

- AAA Mid-Atlantic
- AstraZeneca
- Bank of America
- Barclays Bank Delaware
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware
- CAI
- Christiana Care Health Services
- Citizens Bank
- Colonial Parking, Inc.
- Delaware Department of Education
- Delmarva Power
- Dover Downs, Inc.
- DuPont
- Glenmede Trust Company, N.A.
- Hercules Incorporated
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- McConnell Development, Inc.
- Peninsula Capital Advisors, LLC
- PNC Foundation
- Rodel Foundation of Delaware
- The Schell Trust, Ltd.
- University of Delaware
- Verizon Delaware, Inc.
- The Walters Foundation
- WSFS Foundation

"[The Vision Network is] going to make the schools in Delaware take a good look at themselves and see where they want to be in 2015. Some people don’t like change, but I love it. There are times when you need a breath of fresh air."


We also inform and engage the public with our Vision 2015 website, [www.Vision2015Delaware.org](http://www.Vision2015Delaware.org). Interactive features on the site include community event postings and an opportunity to “share your story,” plus surveys and videos. Our twice-monthly e-newsletter provides updates on Vision 2015 and education news from around the state and nation to more than 3,000 readers in Delaware and across the country.

Our website and e-newsletter report on best practices in Delaware classrooms — for example, schools that benefit from extended learning time or family-school relations coordinators. Our electronic media also feature perspectives on public education in Delaware from parents and teachers.

Delaware media have been supportive in helping inform the public about Vision 2015. In spring 2007, a 10-part series in *The News Journal* on research and best practices related to Vision 2015 generated high reader response and invigorated public interest in transforming the state education system. The first meeting of the LEAD Committee and the launch of the Vision Network also prompted media coverage nationally and throughout our state.
WHAT’S NEXT?

Building on a Strong Foundation. Over the past year, we laid many of the planks needed for a world-class school system in Delaware, but we still have a number of critical areas to address. Tackling these will be our task in the coming years, and by October 2008, we plan to report specifically on:

✓ Recommendations of the LEAD Committee to improve the way the state raises, distributes, and allocates its K–12 public education dollars in order to accelerate student achievement.
✓ Progress of Vision Network district and charter school leaders in implementing practices that improve student achievement.
✓ Seed funding available to districts and schools for such projects.
✓ Launch of the Delaware Virtual School to provide online instruction and more real-world learning opportunities for all students, no matter where they live.
✓ Expansion of the Delaware Stars for Early Success program, and its progress in raising the quality of early childhood education providers.
✓ Initiatives that support innovative and better ways to recruit, pay, and retain great teachers.
✓ Creation of a user-friendly “performance dashboard” that all schools will use to report on performance in such key areas as raising student achievement; interacting with families; managing funds; and increasing satisfaction among parents, students, and educators.

“Part of what Vision 2015 tries to do is say we’re going to put decision making down to the principal — down to that local school level. An expectation that the principal will involve the faculty, involve the parents. And, to the extent that they do that, we will hold them all accountable. So responsibility and accountability go hand in hand.”

— Thomas R. Carper, U. S. Senator (D-Delaware)

VICTORY 2015

We Want to Hear From You!
Please visit www.Vision2015Delaware.org/tellus and tell us what you think is the most important issue in education today.

Find Out More
100 W. 10th Street, c/o Suite 4
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-504-5240

Vision 2015 Steering Committee
A broad-based, 28-person group that led the development of Vision 2015 in 2005–06. (Titles reflect 2006 affiliation.)

Jean W. Allen
President, Delaware State Board of Education

H. Raye Jones Avery*
Executive Director, Christina Cultural Arts Center

Peter Bazile
Executive Director, Delaware Association of School Administrators

Lisa Blunt-Bradley
President, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League

Kevin E. Carson
Supervisor, Woodbridge School District

A. C. Case
President, Delaware State Board of Education

Jennifer W. Davis
Director, Delaware Office of Management and Budget

Emmett J. Dunnan
Managing Director, CAF

Cynthia L. DiPinto*
Wood, Bryant & Associates

Nancy A. Dooley
Executive Chair, Delaware Arts Center

Susan Francis
Executive Director, Delaware School Boards Association

Barbara Gregg
President, Delaware State Education Association

Kevin Hall (ex officio)
Chief Operating Officer, The Broad Foundation

Paul A. Herdman*
President and CEO, RDF Foundation of Delaware

Dorothy R. Jacobson
Vice President, RDF Foundation of Delaware

Dennis L.卢phus
Director, Delaware Academy for School Leadership

Tony J. Marchio
Superintendent, Appoquinimink School District

Robert W. Rescigno
Director, Delaware Office of Management and Budget

Dennis L. Loftus
Director, Delaware Academy for School Leadership

Diane L.老鼠
Director, Delaware Department of Public Health

Marvin N. "Skip" Schoenhals*
Chairman, WSFS Bank

Dianne G. Solo
Supervisor, Polytech School District

Robert G. Sutton
Senior Vice President, Bank of America

John H. Taylor, Jr.*
Executive Director, Delaware Public Policy Institute

William M. Topkis
Delaware Small Business Alliance

Howard Weinberg*
Executive Director, Delaware State Education Association

James A. Wolfe
President and CEO, Delaware State Chamber of Commerce

Valerie A. Woodruft
Secretary, Delaware Departments of Education

Sally C. Conns
Education and Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Ruth Ann Minner

Jennifer W. Davis
Director, Delaware Office of Management and Budget

Carola A. DeSantis
Secretary, Delaware Department of Social Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

Barbara Gregg
President, Delaware State Education Association

Jaime " Gus " Rivera
Director, Delaware Division of Public Health

Marvin N. "Skip" Schoenhals*
Chairman, WSFS Bank

Valerie A. Woodruft
Secretary, Delaware Department of Education (Vice Chair)

Jean W. Allen
President, Delaware State Board of Education

H. Raye Jones Avery
Executive Director, Christina Cultural Arts Center

Kevin E. Carson
President, RDF Foundation of Delaware

Dorothy R. Jacobson
Executive Director, Delaware Association of School Administrators

Paul A. Herdman*
President and CEO, RDF Foundation of Delaware

Frank R. Ingram, Jr.
Board Member, Polytech School District

Vincent A. LoBlin
Education Chair, House Education Committee, Delaware General Assembly

Gregory Meece
Director, Delaware Charter School Network; School Director, Newark Charter School

G. Scott Reihm
Executive Director, Delaware Association of School Administrators

Daniel Rich
Proven, University of Delaware

Daniel Rich*
President, University of Delaware

“What kind of Delaware do you want for your children, your grandchildren, your community? A Delaware where your child is born with the same chances for success as children born in other places? A Delaware where your child has the same opportunities for achievement as other children? A Delaware where your child can get to the top of the global economic ladder?”

— Barbara Gregg, President, Delaware State Education Association, October 17, 2006

Leadership for Education Achievement in Delaware (LEAD) Committee
Established by Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Executive Order No. 88

Mervin N. "Skip" Schoenhals
Chairman, WSFS Bank (Chair)

Valerie A. Woodruft
Secretary, Delaware Department of Education (Vice Chair)

Jean W. Allen
President, Delaware State Board of Education

H. Raye Jones Avery
Executive Director, Christina Cultural Arts Center

Kevin E. Carson
President, RDF Foundation of Delaware

Frank R. Ingram, Jr.
Board Member, Polytech School District

Vincent A. LoBlin
Education Chair, House Education Committee, Delaware General Assembly

Gregory Meece
Director, Delaware Charter School Network; School Director, Newark Charter School

G. Scott Reihm
Executive Director, Delaware Association of School Administrators

Daniel Rich
Proven, University of Delaware

Jennifer W. Davis
Director, Delaware Office of Management and Budget

Carola A. DeSantis
Secretary, Delaware Department of Social Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

Barbara Gregg
President, Delaware State Education Association

Paul A. Herdman*
President and CEO, RDF Foundation of Delaware

Robert L. Reihman
Executive Director, Delaware Association of School Administrators

Connie Bond Stuart
Proven, University of Delaware

David P. Sokola
Education Chair, Senate Education Committee, Delaware General Assembly

Connie Bond Stuart
Chairman, President and CEO, WSFS Bank, Delaware

William H. Willis
President, Willis Chevrolet, Inc.

Carol A. DeSantis
Secretary, Delaware Department of Social Services for Children, Youth and Their Families

Barbara Gregg
President, Delaware State Education Association

*Indicates member of the Vision 2015 Implementation Team

Editorial and design provided by KSA-Plus Communications, Inc., Arlington, Virginia.
Building on a Strong Foundation. Over the past year, we laid many of the planks needed for a world-class school system in Delaware, but we still have a number of critical areas to address. Tackling these will be our task in the coming years, and by October 2008, we plan to report specifically on:

- Recommendations of the LEAD Committee to improve the way the state raises, distributes, and allocates its K–12 public education dollars in order to accelerate student achievement.
- Progress of Vision Network district and charter school leaders in implementing practices that improve student achievement.
- Seed funding available to districts and schools for such projects.
- Launch of the Delaware Virtual School to provide online instruction and more real-world learning opportunities for all students, no matter where they live.
- Expansion of the Delaware Stars for Early Success program, and its progress in raising the quality of early childhood education providers.
- Initiatives that support innovative and better ways to recruit, pay, and retain great teachers.
- Creation of a user-friendly “performance dashboard” that all schools will use to report on performance in such key areas as raising student achievement; interacting with families; managing funds; and increasing satisfaction among parents, students, and educators.

“A doubling of parent leadership training, through the Parent Information Resource Center, to help parents become better advocates for their children’s learning and for Delaware’s schools.

- A statewide definition of effective family and community engagement, intended to improve how we can work together to support Delaware’s students.
- Benchmarking of our standards against those in high-performing countries to ensure that students’ sights are set high and that they are given the support they need to meet those standards.
- New and increased investments in Vision 2015 from public and private funders, both nationally and locally.
- Increased public awareness about our schools and the steps required to move Delaware’s student performance from its current state ranking of No. 27 in the United States to the best in the world.

“Part of what Vision 2015 tries to do is say we’re going to put decision making down to the principal — down to that local school level. An expectation that the principal will involve the faculty, involve the parents. And, to the extent that they do that, we will hold them all accountable. So responsibility and accountability go hand in hand.”

— Thomas R. Carper, U. S. Senator (D-Delaware)