



# THE *FUTURE* IS NOW

**2019**  
ANNUAL  
PROGRESS  
REPORT



STUDENT  
SUCCESS  
— 2025 —

VISION  
COALITION  
OF DELAWARE



# The Future Is Now

Four years into our 10-year roadmap, *Student Success 2025*, and on the brink of a new decade, Delaware has sprung into action.

*Student Success* presents a “vision for the future,” an educational landscape that’s modern and efficient, where core academic subjects weave together with practical and holistic approaches to student development.

Today that future is here.

Educators, families, and community members are increasingly focused on social and emotional skills and attributes that young people need to be successful in life. Career pathways are gearing up thousands of young people for the real world with applicable skills, and inspiring partnerships around our state.

These were the tenets of our North Star: collaboration, problem solving, emotional intelligence, communication. That reality is unfolding inside (and outside) Delaware schools this fall.

Delaware accomplished much in the last year. Read on to celebrate our progress in the pages ahead.

## VISION COALITION OF DELAWARE LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Tony Allen, Ph.D.**  
Provost, Delaware State University



**Jeffrey T. Benson, Jr.**  
President - One Direction Insurance - Benson Development Group, LLC



**Susan Bunting**  
Delaware Secretary of Education



**Heath Chasanov**  
Superintendent, Woodbridge School District



**Katrina Daniels**  
Principal, Colonial Early Education Program



**Ernest J. Dianastasis**  
CEO, The Precisionists, Inc.



**Elizabeth 'Liz' Farley-Ripple**  
Associate Professor of Education and Public Policy in the School of Education; affiliate of the Institute for Public Administration, University of Delaware



**Dorrell Green**  
Superintendent, Red Clay Consolidated School District



**Paul A. Herdman**  
President and CEO, Rodel



**Logan S. Herring**  
Chief Executive Officer, REACH Riverside, Kingswood Community Center, The Warehouse



**Mark Holodick**  
Superintendent, Brandywine School District



**Stephanie Ingram**  
President, Delaware State Education Association



**Leslie Newman**  
Chief Executive Officer, Children & Families First of Delaware



**Reverend Provey Powell**  
Member, State Board of Education



**Rob Rescigno**  
Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Wilmington University



**Justina M. Sapna**  
Vice President for Academic Affairs at Delaware Technical Community College



**Gary Stockbridge**  
Regional President, Delmarva and Atlantic City Electric



**Javier Torrijos**  
Chair, Delaware Hispanic Commission and Engineer, Delaware Department of Transportation



**Margie López Waite**  
Head of School at Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

# Progress in the 6 Core Areas

## The North Star is more relevant today than ever before

*Schools renew focus on social and emotional learning, mental health*

*Investments spur progress for early learners*

*Work-based learning makes an impact*



*Delaware rolls out new school report cards*

*Teacher residency programs expand statewide*

*Opportunity funding a step in the right direction*



Early Learning

# Early Learning

*Investments spur big year  
for early learners*

*"Participating in Delaware Stars has significantly helped our paraeducators, therapists, teachers, specialists, and administrators because it ensures our focus is on implementing developmentally appropriate practices in our classrooms. The program also encourages us to educate our families about the characteristics that make an early childhood program high-quality." –Katrina Daniels*



## Progress:

- **Key Investments:** a \$6.7 million increase in Stars rating system that incentivizes quality in early learning programs, and a boost for Purchase of Care, a state funding stream that helps providers cover tuition costs for low-income families
- Delaware releases **early literacy plan** with community partners
- First steps toward **streamlined early childhood governance** with passage of Senate Bill 187
- **Kindergarten registration bill (Senate Bill 150)** introduced in legislature to create a common statewide process

## Progress:

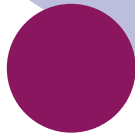
- **High social-emotional expectations for all students:** Delaware joined the national "Collaborating States Initiative;" now the state SEL Collaborative developing SEL framework, common language, competencies
- **Holistic development of schools in high-needs communities:** Project DelAWARE expanding mental health supports; wellness centers expansion on the rise in elementary schools, thanks to a \$350,000 state investment
- **\$5 million state investment for mental health supports** for elementary schools serving high percentage of low-income and English language learner students



Sandy Hook  
**PROMISE**

*Schools renew  
focus on social  
and emotional  
learning,  
mental health*



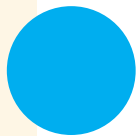


# Postsecondary Success

The Brandywine School District partnered with the Sandy Hook Promise to offer free suicide prevention programs for all students this school year. Plus, all of the district's counselors, educational diagnosticians, psychologists, and nurses received training through the nonprofit.

"This has meant so much to our students and our staff," says Mark Holodick. "Mental health is a top concern for us, and this partnership equips our students with direct and sometimes critical services."

## Personalized Learning



*Work-based learning makes an impact*



*"We know that student success is strengthened when we engage students in meaningful, relevant learning experiences, and that's why we remain focused on enhancing and expanding these efforts. Over the last year, the Office of Work-Based Learning continued its work of connecting the classroom to the workplace. Through the ongoing collaboration of educators, employers, and community and a sustained commitment to our students, we will continue to see success in the years to come." – Justina M. Sapna*

*Progress:*

- **Work-based Learning Course and Industry Councils:** WBL course pilot launched for students to hone employability skills and two Industry Councils launched (Healthcare and Energy, Manufacturing, and Engineering)
- **Dual-enrollment increase:** 1,500 students enrolled, earning college credit while still in high school
- **Pathways Expansion:** 16,000 students now enrolled in Delaware Pathways, taking industry-aligned coursework as high schoolers
- **Zip Code Wilmington partnering with Delaware State University** to offer coding certifications



The yearlong teacher residency at Wilmington University is an immersive approach to teacher prep. It's learning by doing, with a co-teaching model that puts teachers-in-training into daily school life. This year, the state invested budget dollars to support this model and open it to even more students.

"Our students are working alongside their mentor teachers every day, and their coursework is embedded into the residency as they plan and deliver instruction, as they observe and influence student development," says Rob Rescigno. "They attend meet-the-teacher night and parent conferences. They're real teachers."



## Fair and Efficient Funding

### Progress:

- **Professional Development:** Microcredentials approved as professional development option for Delaware teachers by the state's Professional Standards Board, giving teachers more autonomy to customize their training
- **2,000 high school students enrolled** in teacher academies and early childhood academies, pathways into the teaching profession
- **\$1 million state investment** in teacher residencies to build new programs and cover resident stipends

## Educator Support and Development

*Teacher residency programs expand statewide*

**Educator Support and Development**

## Q&A with:

**Q:** How has Las Americas ASPIRA Academy utilized flexible Opportunity Funding?

**A:** It allowed us to launch our W.O.L.V.E.S. Reading Program, a targeted protocol that supports biliteracy development and reading comprehension of all our students.

**Q:** What does the program do?

**A:** By building stronger background knowledge and deeper understanding of reading, we can help students truly master two languages and grow their excitement about reading and learning.

### Progress:

- **Opportunity Funding initiative:** \$75 million over three years, includes \$20 million this year in per-pupil funding for every low income student and English learner

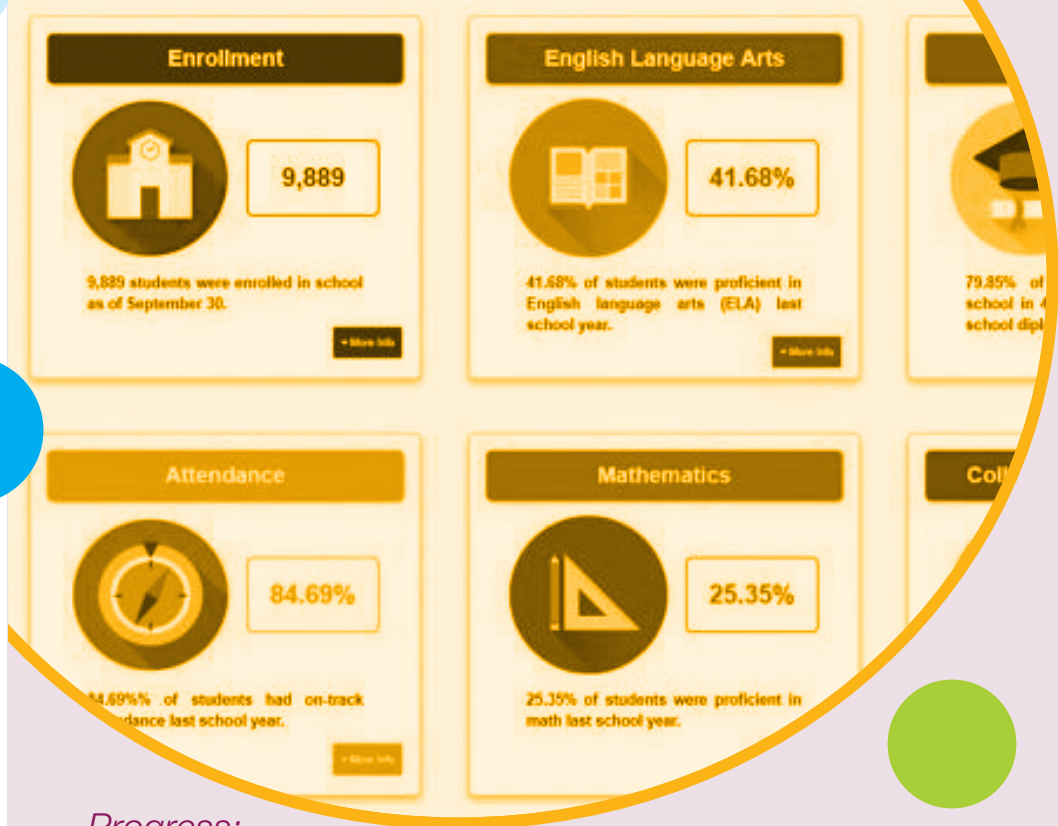


*Opportunity  
funding a step  
in the right  
direction*

Margie López Waite

**Q: Why is Opportunity Funding helpful?**

**A:** The number of English learners in our state continues to grow, along with many other students who have unique needs. This type of flexible spending allows schools to truly meet their students where they are.



### Progress:

- **New school and district “report cards”** increase community transparency and access to education data, including translation options
- **Updated School and district accountability framework** includes a more holistic definition of student and school success
- **School accountability and public reporting** includes new data on English learner proficiency, college and career preparedness, student growth in ELA and math, on-track attendance

## System Governance, Alignment, and Performance

*Delaware rolls out new school report cards*

**System  
Governance,  
Alignment, and  
Performance**

# What's Next?

## 2020 Goals



### Early Learning

### *Universal pre-K*

Encourage investment in voluntary, full-day, high quality pre-kindergarten available universally to families in a variety of settings

### *Per-pupil funding for high-need students*

Opportunity Funding represents just a first step toward updating the system so that funding follows each student



### Fair and Efficient Funding



### Postsecondary Success

### *Delaware Pathways*

Support additional \$1 million to bolster career readiness and sustain immersive pathways and work-based learning efforts

### *Continued expansion*

Support additional investments and scaling of teacher residencies focused on quality teachers at high-need schools



### Educator Support and Development

 VisionCoalitionDE @vcdelaware

Some photos courtesy of Delaware Pathways - 2017-19 Conference

VISION  
COALITION  
OF DELAWARE

Preparing our students for a lifetime of success  
[www.visioncoalitionde.org](http://www.visioncoalitionde.org)