



2023 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



STUDENT
SUCCESS
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VISION
COALITION
OF DELAWARE
Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

The North Star Continues to Light the Way

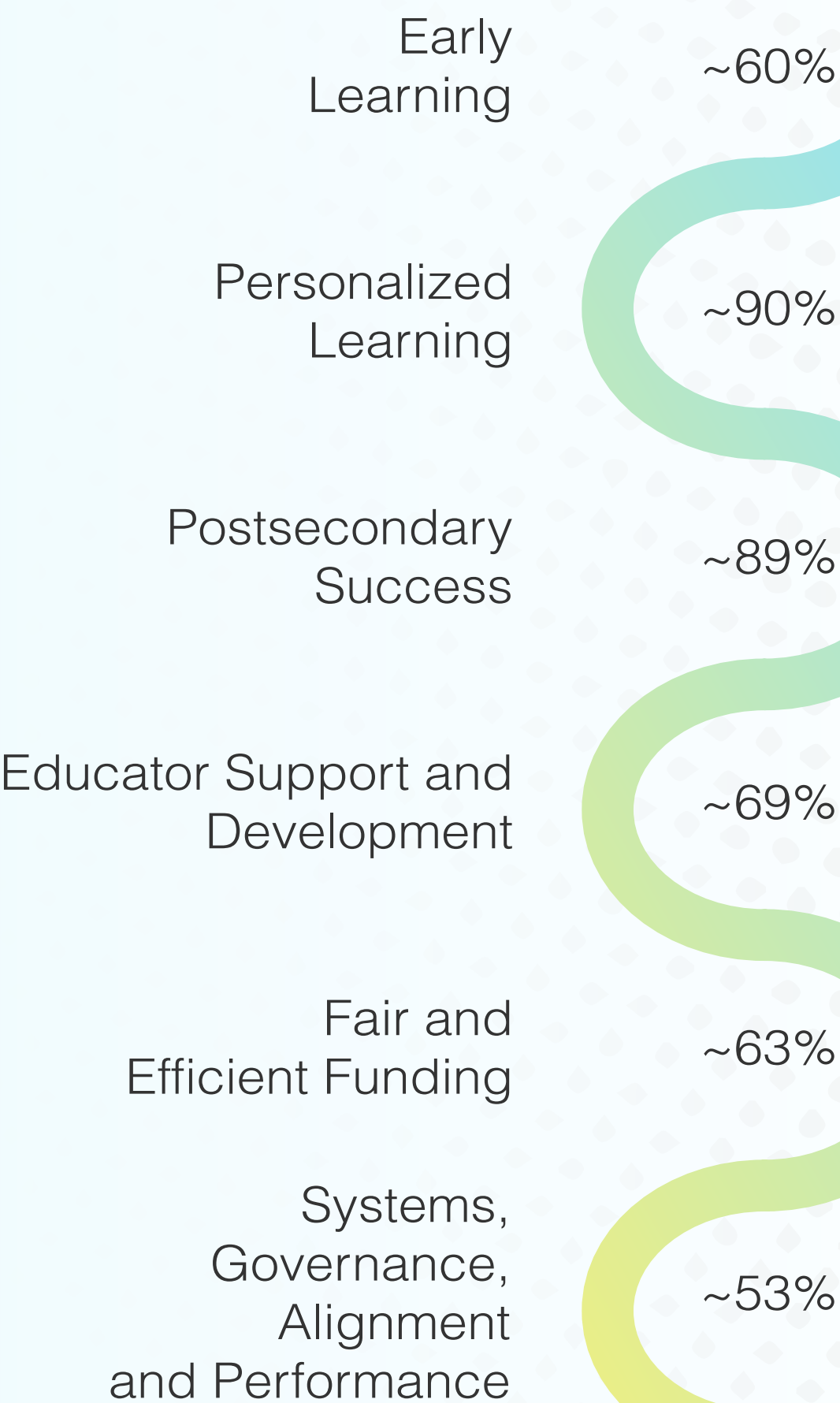


When leaders and community members from all across Delaware collaborated to launch *Student Success 2025* back in 2015, there was no way to predict the earth-changing events that followed. From a global pandemic to social unrest to the rise of artificial intelligence—the last few years have reshaped society and the world our young people will someday lead.

But *Student Success 2025* did guide us in the right direction. The skills and attributes found in the North Star are just as important today, and the key recommendations that followed—from utilizing technology so students can learn anywhere, to focusing on social-emotional health and equity—became key issues in the years since 2015.

The fidelity to the plan and accountability we hold ourselves to should be celebrated—and should give us all the energy to undertake another 10-year plan.

Eight years into the current plan, Delaware has made progress on about **70 percent of the 47 policy recommendations**—with more to do in all areas:



Vision Coalition Leadership Team



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2023 Progress

More than **70%** of districts have adopted **high-quality** instructional materials

—vetted and proven tools that have already produced results.



Overall Priority

Support students' needs and focus on instruction and acceleration



Personalized Learning

Next Big Opportunities

As federal COVID-19 relief funding subsidies, ensure focus and support are maintained

Build on and scale the bright spots from our learning acceleration programming

Act on a forthcoming multilingual learner strategic plan to be released by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE)

2023 Progress in the Core Areas of Student Success 2025



2023 Progress



A **15-percent increase** in rates for Purchase of **Care**

—the state subsidy that covers tuition for low-income families—brought **payment levels to 100 percent** of the 75th percentile of market rate, helping providers to hire staff and pay their bills. ✓

Delaware doubled its investment in state-funded pre-K (Early Childhood Assistance Program + Redding Consortium Pre-K), which now serves 1,400 children. ✓

Lawmakers aligned the funding and staffing ratios used by special education pre-K programs and K-12 schools, adding more equity to the system. ✓

Next Big Opportunities

Increase family access by **raising eligibility levels** to state assistance programming

Focus on **recruiting and retaining** for the early childhood workforce, which generally makes minimum wage with little to no benefits

Build on the sensible components of the new ECAP model, which relies on enrollment instead of **attendance** to drive funding and funds the cost of quality programming

Early Learning



Continued increased investments to serve more families in high-quality programs

Overall Priority



2023 Progress in the Core Areas of Student Success 2025



2023 Progress

- ✓ A statewide “Rethinking Middle Grades” program launched, creating an entirely new framework for middle grade students to explore their **own interests** and passions and begin thinking about potential future **careers**. The programming will reach **6,000** middle school students by 2024.

More than **30,000** students **enrolled** in Delaware **Pathways**, with thousands earning industry credentials and college credits through dual-enrollment courses.

- ✓ The state’s vocational-technical schools adopted an accelerated approach to apprenticeships, which will supply students with relevant, paying career opportunities while still in high school.

- ✓ Higher education institutions adopted more supportive and inclusive policies to accept students on a broader range of measures.

Next Big Opportunities

Align efforts to the Delaware Workforce Development Board’s new strategic plan to prioritize industries for investment

Continue to reduce student cost and increase access to dual enrollment courses

Create a single navigation source for opportunity and education- or training-seekers across DDOE, the Department of Labor, and institutions of higher education

Ensure students enrolled in a career pathway complete and earn a credential and/or college credits

Overall Priority

Strengthen data systems and support students to navigate and access postsecondary opportunities



Fair and Efficient Funding



2023 Progress

Delaware’s annual budget Bill saw a **\$15 million increase** in **Opportunity Funding**—

additional, student-based funding for low-income, special needs, or multilingual students—up to \$53 million total for Fiscal Year 2024. ✓

Property Reassessments, which will adjust local tax dollars going to schools, are being conducted by all three counties, and a new bill was passed to require new property tax reassessment every five years. ✓

Next Big Opportunities

Leaders will be urged to act on the independent assessment of the state’s funding formula, released as a report and set of recommendations by American Institutes for Research (AIR) in December

Postsecondary Success



Overall Priority

Build on education lawsuit settlement to create the foundation for a student-centered, equitable funding system

2023 Progress in the Core Areas of Student Success 2025



2023 Progress

The state budget included a nine-percent salary increase for educators. ✓



Delaware saw a **5% increase** in the **educator workforce** since the pandemic, the **top state in the nation** for growth.

A new Teacher Apprenticeship was officially codified and will soon launch to provide an earn-and-learn model for aspiring educators. ✓

The state initiated innovative ideas to pave the way for new and future educators, including a redesign of the new teacher mentoring program, streamlined scholarships and loan repayments, and incentives for paraprofessionals. ✓

“Residency Hubs,” schools or districts with a regular influx of teachers in residence, increased to seven districts, with 42 teacher residents serving this school year. ✓

Next Big Opportunities

Act on Delaware's Public Education Compensation Committee recommendations to address compensation and educator leadership.

Continue to develop the state framework for educator pipeline development including connecting high school and educator preparation programs with “Grow Your Own” and teacher retention strategies.

Look to create more alternative routes to certification for charter school leaders.

Educator Support and Development

Overall Priority

Continue to strengthen teacher pipeline and diversity; focus on opportunities for teacher leadership and retention



Delaware has made significant progress, and there is still a lot of **work ahead**. We remain focused the work to be done to achieve an excellent and equitable education for all Delaware students—and to addressing opportunity **gaps** including:

- > Only **16%** of children ages **zero to five** are enrolled in publicly funded early care and education, and many are not in high-quality programs.
- > **Math and reading scores** have stagnated or declined in recent years, and Delaware’s ranking **has fallen nationally**; many students have **struggled academically, socially,** and with **mental health**—and significant gaps continue to grow between achievement among **students of color**, students with **disabilities**, and students from **lower socioeconomic backgrounds**.
- > **Education funding**, as illustrated in a recent assessment by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), is **inflexible** and **inequitable** – and does not meet the needs of our population.

“Delaware has greater student needs in terms of economic disadvantage and English Learners than comparison states and lower average student outcomes. Having greater student needs means that Delaware will likely need to invest greater resources than comparison states to achieve similar outcomes.”

Assessment of Delaware Public School Funding, American Institutes for Research (AIR)

We remain **committed for the long term** to addressing these opportunities and building on the progress Delaware has made. The overall **priorities** in this report outline this commitment:

- ✓ **Support** students’ needs and focus on **instruction** and **acceleration**.
- ✓ Continue increased **investments** to serve more **families** in high-quality **early care** and **education programs**.
- ✓ **Help** students to navigate and **access postsecondary** opportunities.
- ✓ **Build** on the education lawsuit settlement to create the foundation for a **student-centered, equitable funding system**.
- ✓ Continue to **strengthen** out **teacher workforce** and its diversity; focus on opportunities for teacher **leadership** and **retention**.

In 2023, the **Vision Coalition surveyed** hundreds of Delawareans to learn ideas and **insights** into Delaware’s education system—and how it should evolve in the future. Those ideas will help fuel Delaware’s next **10-year plan** for education, launching in **2025**.

The **Vision Coalition** is kicking off a planning process that will pave the way for our next journey, a **10-year plan** that will take Delaware to **2035**.

What Else Did Delawareans Say?

Visit
www.visioncoalitionde.org
to explore the full results
of our 2023 survey

Sign up to get engaged and share your input:
www.visioncoalitionde.org/get-involved/contact