

FUTURE OF EDUCATION TOWN HALL SERIES: WHAT WE HEARD



Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

*What does the future of education hold?
What should Delaware prioritize next?*

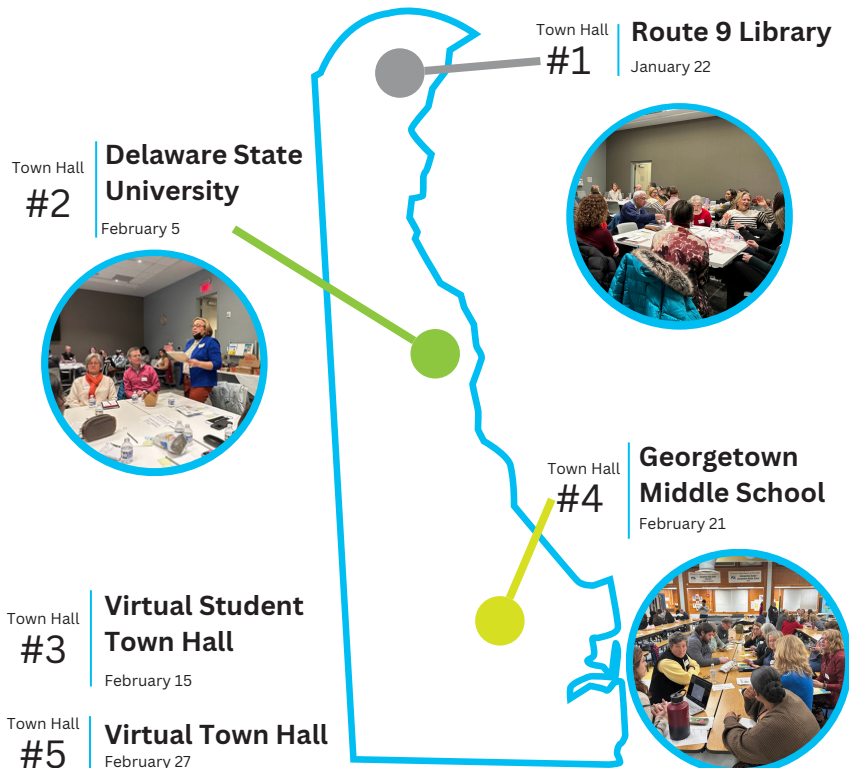
In winter 2024, the Vision Coalition held three in-person town halls across Delaware’s three counties and two virtual events where local community members and advocates shared their ideas and perspectives to help shape the future of Delaware public schools. We discussed what Delaware should prioritize in the next 10 years (2025-2035) across a handful of key areas:

- Early Care and Education
- Student-Centered Learning
- Student Supports
- College and Career Success
- Educators and Leaders
- Student-Centered Funding

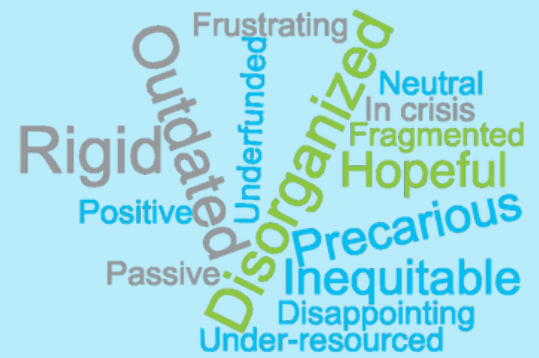
More than 120 Delawareans gave their input at town halls across all three counties, including:



Some attendees did not identify as any of these profiles therefore the sum of these numbers may not be 120



How Attendees Described the Current State of Education



What Attendees Hope for in their Future Education System



Get involved at <https://visioncoalitionde.org/planning-for-2035/>

North Star

The North Star, introduced in *Student Success 2025* (released in 2015), guides the journey, showing what students need to know, be, and do to be successful in 2025.

Delawareans discussed the North Star throughout Town Hall events, and a new version will guide the 2035 plan. What were some of their top skills and attributes needed for 2035?



The North Star from *Student Success 2025*

Civic engagement

Practical life skills

Passion

Cultural competence

Resourcefulness

Conflict resolution

Inclusivity

Lifelong learning

Priorities for the next 10 years in each core area:

We asked attendees the following:

1. What should we prioritize in the next 10 years?
2. What topics should be included and addressed?
3. What are the recommendations in this area for the next 10 years?



Student-Centered Funding

- Design and implement an adequately and equitably funded education system that supports competitive teacher compensation and a well-rounded education
- Increase funding and target increases to support student needs, focusing on multilingual learners, students in poverty and students with disabilities
- Reduce the need for referendums, especially for ongoing capital and operating expenses
- Invest in school building needs
- Educate leaders and public on education's significant ROI



Student-Centered Learning

- Strengthen core academic foundations while embracing experiential learning
- Establish curriculum flexibility and interactive learning opportunities
- Integrate technology strategically without substituting quality teaching
- Design and implement culturally responsive classrooms and diverse assessments with the support to implement them
- Cultivate creativity and agency for students by empowering them with choices to demonstrate competency
- Create more opportunities for student agency, including student-led clubs and organizations
- Provide full educational access for people with disabilities

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Student Supports

- Grow community-school partnerships to engage families and provide affordable or free supports
- Create inclusive and supportive classroom environments
- Build and implement a behavioral health model that teaches and serves students, staff, and families
- Care for students holistically through smaller class sizes and proper multi-tiered system of supports with home and community reinforcements to maintain consistency in and out of school
- Improve school safety and school climate
- Provide special education resources, funding, and make special education testing universally available
- Develop research-based training for teachers on best practices to support students' mental health

College and Career Success

- Begin career exposure, exploration, and guidance K-8 so students understand their options and how to pursue them, particularly in STEM
- Provide access to high-quality CTE and pathways programs
- Make career pathways relevant by offering opportunities to earn credentials and college credits in high school
- Align pathways with high-skill and high-demand jobs, and offer diverse areas of study
- Prepare students with “life skills” like financial literacy for life after high school
- Make postsecondary opportunities affordable by providing more scholarships and state funding

Educators and Leaders

- Recruit and retain qualified teachers by elevating the profession, providing social and emotional support, increasing compensation, removing certification barriers, and improving working conditions
- Provide mentorship, leadership training, and career advancement opportunities
- Continue to grow career pathway opportunities including Grow Your Own and Teacher Affinity Groups
- Hire, retain, and develop school leaders who are culturally responsive and connected to the community
- Provide incentives to enter the profession such as scholarships and loan forgiveness

Early Childhood

- Provide high-quality, universal pre-K with equitable supports and funding statewide
- Strengthen early intervention services like prenatal, home visiting, and young parent support
- Strengthen cultural competence and developmentally appropriate early childhood education
- Uplift the early care and education workforce with better compensation and benefits on the level of K-12 educators
- Ensure learning environments are interactive and play-based

