



2017 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

In This Together



STUDENT
SUCCESS
— 2 0 2 5 —

VISION
COALITION
OF DELAWARE



VISION COALITION OF DELAWARE LEADERSHIP TEAM



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Head of School, Las Américas ASPIRA Academy

Progress in the Face of Change

We are now through year two of our 10-year roadmap, *Student Success 2025*. Between sweeping changes in local and national leadership and a challenging financial picture, the road, at times, has been bumpy. But our North Star vision remains clear. In Delaware and throughout the nation, a new paradigm is emerging around student achievement. There are nearly 9,000 local students engaged in meaningful career preparation through Delaware Pathways. Educators, families, and community members are increasingly focused on the nonacademic skills and attributes that young people need to be successful in life. We're observing a growing emphasis on "social and emotional learning" and more holistic approaches to child development. Not only has the North Star remained central to our goals—it's shining brighter than ever.

This is just one positive step in a year full of progress for Delaware schools. There's much more to celebrate in the pages—and years—ahead.



Collectively, the skills found in the North Star—a distillation of comments shared by 4,000 Delawareans—will prepare students for a lifetime of success.

Year 2 Progress:

6 Core Areas of *Student Success 2025*

At Las Américas ASPIRA Academy, led by Margie López Waite, personalized learning and competency-based models allow students like Eva to work at their own pace and in their favorite setting.



Personalized Learning

- Trauma-informed approaches, student momentum while educator training supports expanded
- BRINC consortium, Las Américas implementing personalized learning models using online learning platforms
- Language immersion expanded with 10 schools participating in the Delaware World Language school year

Early Learning

- Delaware was awarded more than \$9 million in federal grants to improve programs, family supports, and screenings for families
- Over 1,000 families across the state participated in literacy events, parent conferences, and family skill building activities implemented by the Delaware Readiness Teams
- New policies around Delaware's purchase of care subsidy—which helps low-income families pay for child care—provided stability while extending the subsidy from just a few months to 12 months, meaning children and families can benefit from consistent, year-long care
- 83 percent of low-income kids (ages 0-5) are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs, compared to 76 percent in 2016



System Governance, Alignment, and Performance

- Office of Work-Based Learning was launched to enable collaboration between K-12, higher education, and employers and expand work-based learning opportunities for students in Delaware Pathways
- The state's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan broadened the definition of student success to include more holistic measures— such as chronic absenteeism, expanded English learner proficiency, and broader college and career readiness measures



Quality early learning, mentorship, and community engagement are key pillars for Jeffrey Benson, Seaford High School graduate Andrez Jones, and the Western Sussex Boys & Girls Club.

Fair and Efficient

- Governor Carney established the Governor's Accountability Review Board (GAR) to identify cost savings and efficiencies across education

Personalized Learning

Such as Compassionate Schools, gained funding and school planning for multi-tiered

such as ASPIRA Academy, and others using via blended and/or competency-based platforms and standards-based grading

to encompass 22 schools in 11 districts World Language Immersion Program last

Personalized Learning

Efficient

Efficient

Government Efficiency and Funding

Government Efficiency and (AR), a permanent effort to identify across State government and public



Thanks to efforts like College Application Week, students like Nick Midgett of Woodbridge High School are accessing higher education at impressive rates, says Woodbridge superintendent Heath Chasanov.

Postsecondary Success

- Nearly 9,000 students now enrolled in one of 11 state-model career pathways (up from just 27 in 2014), earning opportunities for industry credentials and early college credits
- Partners raised millions of dollars in private and federal funding to boost Delaware Pathways, and other postsecondary and apprenticeship projects
- Local leaders worked together across education, labor, and workforce development to align state Perkins, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and ESSA plans, creating a more coordinated combination of services for students and families
- New state-model career pathways for students launched, including the teacher academy, nurse assisting, and environmental science
- Students gained more opportunities to earn college credits, including 1,175 more students (44-percent increase) who took dual enrollment courses from fall 2015 to fall 2016

Postsecondary Success

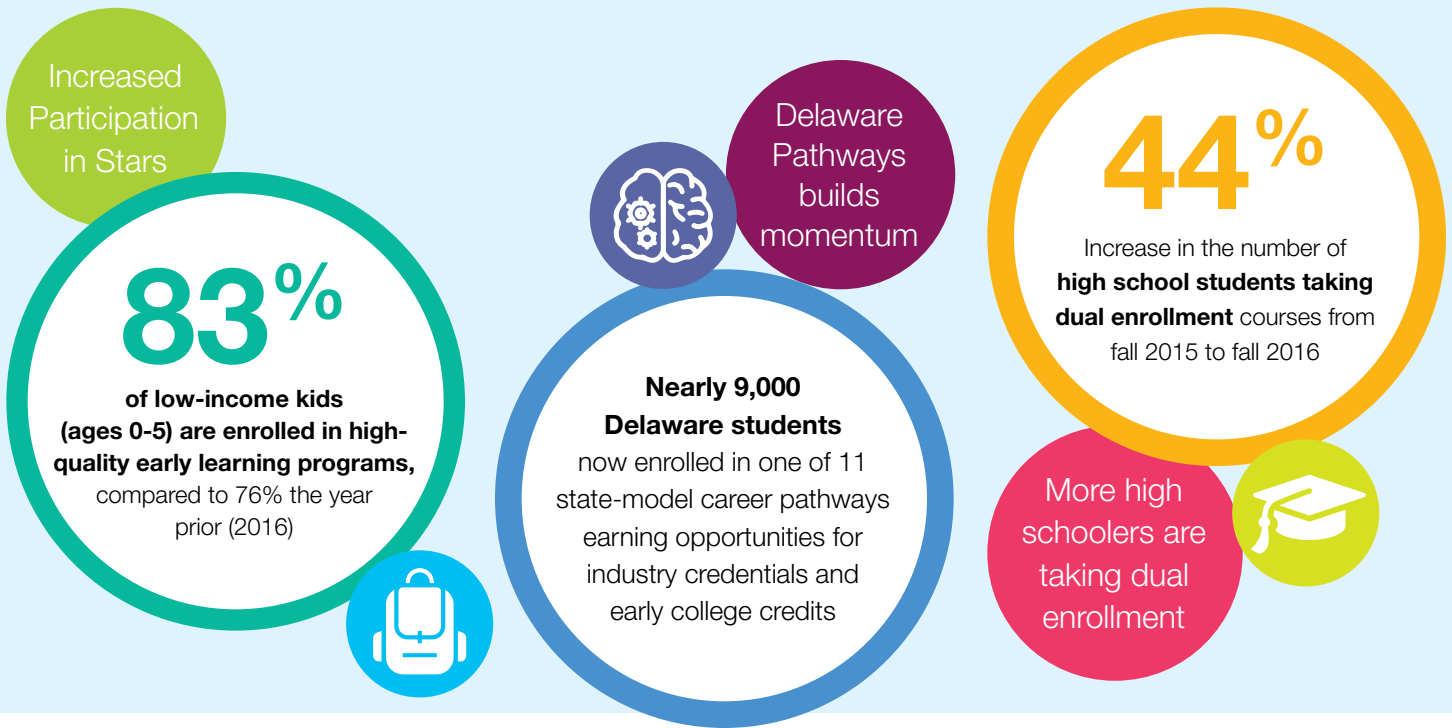
Educator Support and Development

Educator Support and Development

- Alternative teacher evaluation systems increasingly linked to coaching and career ladders
- Principal preparation programs—including the University of Delaware's Principal Preparation Program, RELAY Graduate School of Education, Lead for Delaware, and FLEX—serving dozens more of Delaware's future school leaders across the state
- Innovative teacher training models—like the Great Oaks Charter School/New York University program and the year-long teacher residency program at Wilmington University—underway

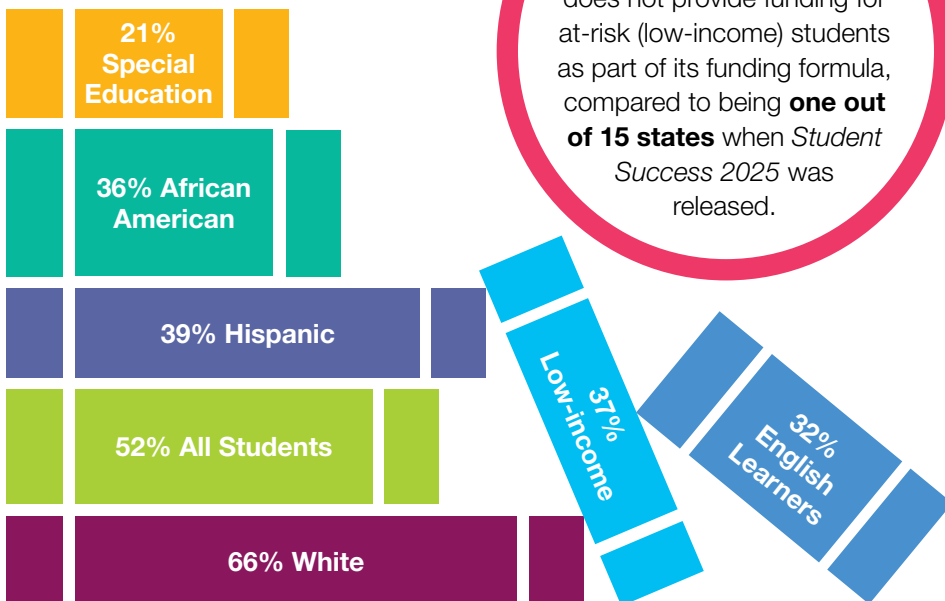
Areas of Progress

Delaware has made great progress just two years into *Student Success 2025*, but in other areas, we have more work ahead of us.



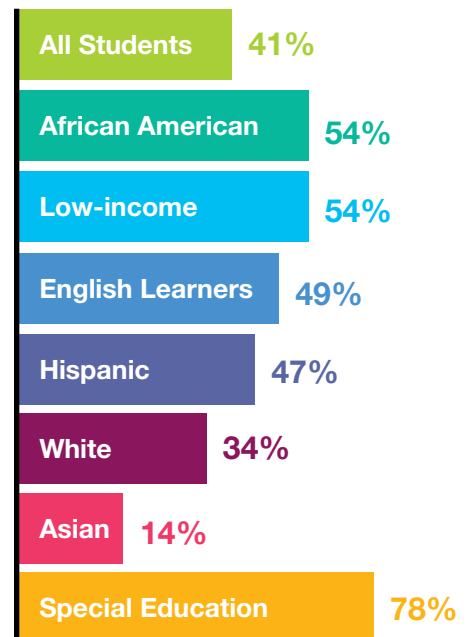
Areas Needing Improvement

3rd grade reading proficiencies—a predictor of high school graduation—needs improvement.



Funding: Delaware is now **one of four states** that does not provide funding for at-risk (low-income) students as part of its funding formula, compared to being **one out of 15 states** when *Student Success 2025* was released.

College remediation rates are still **alarmingly high**. Four out of 10 high school grads are not ready for college-level coursework.





Let's Make the Most of our Opportunities

We're excited by Delaware's progress—and we also know that there are many families and children throughout the state who are struggling with issues that extend beyond the classroom. If we truly wish to bring the North Star vision to fruition, we need to work together as a community to build healthier communities and more equitable opportunities for all Delawareans.

We've come a long way. A renewed focus on “whole child” development and social-emotional learning could prove to be transformative to K-12 education; and huge gains in career preparation could soon uplift our entire state economy. But we need to do more. Business leaders, lawmakers, advocates—we urge you to keep collaborating to create meaningful opportunities for our students and schools. Open your business's doors to interns or job shadowing. Give a guest lecture to a class. Support literacy campaigns, donate books, or read to a child.

We look forward to working with all of you, as well as with Governor John Carney's administration on a few priority areas, where support, urgency, and momentum are creating a groundswell of opportunity.

1. Improving 3rd grade literacy. As we work to strengthen our state's early learning system, 3rd grade literacy should be our guidepost. A child who can read on grade level by third grade is four times more likely to graduate by age 19 than a child who does not read proficiently by that time.
2. Enrolling 20,000 students in pathways. There's no doubting the impact Delaware Pathways is having on Delaware's students and its employers. In the next few years, let's work to get half of all eligible high school students involved.
3. Supporting leaders in high needs schools. Teachers are the most important in-school factor affecting student success. We should ensure they, along with principals and other school leaders, have all the resources they need, especially those serving high-need student populations.

Helping all Delaware students succeed requires support and initiative from the entire community. Join us in the coming year to help raise the bar even higher.

