

EQUITY IN EDUCATION SERIES

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL FUNDING, BASICS AND BEYOND AGENDA



Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

March 17, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee & Registration

9:00 a.m.– 10:15 a.m.

**Session I: Education Funding
in Delaware: Today's
Landscape and Why it Matters**

- Welcome, Vision Coalition Leadership Team
- Lawsuit requirements (including independent funding assessment)
- Landscape of related education issues

Speakers

- Rob Riscigno, Assistant Vice President Partnerships and Community Affairs, Associate Professor, Wilmington University
 - Ashley Lockwood, State Teacher of the Year, 5th Grade Teacher, Lulu Ross Elementary School
 - Bettina Tweardy Riveros, Chief Public Affairs Officer, Chief Health Equity Officer, ChristianaCare
 - Richard Morse, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (CLASI)
 - Drew Atchinson, Senior Researcher, American Institutes for Research
 - Mark Holodick, Delaware Secretary of Education
-

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Session II: Delaware's
Education Funding System in
the National Landscape**

- Delaware's system
- School Funding 101
- Moderated discussion

Speakers

- Michael Griffith, Senior Researcher and Policy Analyst, Learning Policy Institute
 - Stephanie Levin, Research Manager, Learning Policy Institute
 - Kim Klein, Associate Secretary of Operations Support, Delaware Department of Education
 - Heath Chasanov, Superintendent, Woodbridge School District
 - Margie López Waite, Chief Executive Officer, Las Américas ASPIRA Academy
-

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Working Lunch: Discussion
Tables: Moderated by Learning
Policy Institute and Vision
Coalition Leadership Team**

- Questions for the experts
- What should we cover in future sessions?
- Table one, Digging Deeper into Delaware's State Funding Formula: Kim Klein
- Table two, Intentions and Outcomes of 2019 Lawsuit: Karen Lantz
- Table three, Independent Funding Assessments: Examples from Other States: Drew Atchinson and Michael Griffith
- Table four, What States Can Do with Funding Systems to Support Equity for Students: Ivy Morgan
- Table five, National Trends: How Other states are Rethinking their Funding systems: Indira Dammu
- Table six, National Landscape of Impact of Litigation: Lawsuits and System Change: Jennifer O'Neal Schiess

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Session III: School Funding 201

- *Why school funding systems matter*
- *National context—what states have made changes and why*
- *Prioritizing equity and adequacy*
- *Discussion*

Speakers

- *Stephanie Levin, Research Manager, Learning Policy Institute - Moderator*
- *Ivy Smith Morgan, Director, P12 Data Analytics, The Education Trust*
- *Indira Dammu, Senior Analyst, Bellwether*
- *Jennifer O’Neal Schiess, Senior Partner & Policy and Evaluation Practice Leader, Bellwether*

RECOMMENDATIONS

From Student Success 2025

Ensure Funding Responds to Individual Student Needs

Increase funding system equity by factoring student needs into funding allocations, and update the system so that funding follows each student, enabling them to take courses from a variety of approved providers (e.g., other district and charter schools, distance learning, higher education organizations).

Increase Equity and Flexibility

Conduct property reassessments on a consistent, rolling basis to enable a more sustainable, sufficient revenue and accurate equalization process.

Allocate a larger portion of district/school funding in flexible funds so that district and school leaders can expand the ways they educate children to meet specific student needs, rather than in one-size-fits-all categories.

Build More Transparent Systems

Create incentives at the local and state levels to increase efficiency, particularly for sharing of services such as technology or professional development across districts and public charter schools. Publicly share district and school budgets as well as key district/school financial performance metrics in formats that are accessible to the public.

Visit visioncoalitionde.org to learn more