

DELAWARE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING COMMISSION (PEFC) SUMMARY



Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

Purpose: This commission has been established (by [Senate Concurrent Resolution 201](#)) to evaluate and make recommendations to improve the Delaware public education funding formula.

Membership: 31 members include legislators, Department of Education, administrators, educators, charter representatives, community members, and other experts

Chair: Senate Education Committee Chair (even numbered years); House Education Committee Chair (odd numbered years)

The commission must:

- **Review the recommendations from the independent report published by American Institutes for Research (AIR), “Assessment of Delaware Public School Funding”** (December 2023) including: increased investment, equitable funding distribution, exploring a weighted or foundation formula, improving flexibility and transparency, and addressing local funding equity
- Assess the impact of funding recommendations on a district or charter school’s ability to **support all students’ needs—both academic and nonacademic**—and the impact of recommendations on educator recruitment and retention
- **Consider existing input from the professional judgement panels conducted by AIR** (convenings of educators across the state to determine the cost of an adequate education for a student in various school scenarios) and **gather additional input from educators, parents, school administrators, local school boards, and higher education representatives**
- **Hear testimony from local and national experts** on hybrid funding models, national best practices, revenue generators, and engage experts to model various funding systems
- **Consider alignment with existing recommendations and initiatives** including equalization and property tax reassessment
- **Consider a hybrid system** that aligns with Delaware’s current funding structures (Divisions I, II, and III), **prioritizes student need**, and allocates additional funding for students with additional needs (including students from low-income backgrounds, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities, etc.)

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Final recommendations must address:

- Delaware's approach to funding schools with **increased funding targeted to meet student needs**
- **Which components of the public education funding system should be modified and which components should be maintained**
- **Opportunities to create flexibility** in the funding system to meet the unique needs of students at the school and district levels
- **Multi-year plan for implementation**, including the financial resources and other supports and systems required
- **Additional resources required** to implement the systems and **recommended sources of revenue**, both existing and new, to support the changes
- **Address charter funding mechanisms**, by consider ways to increase transparency and sustainability of charter funding, including exploring funding charters through the state funding mechanism rather than relying on local share

The recommendations must maintain funding stability and predictability; provide flexibility; and provide at least the same amount as the Fiscal Year 2027 level of funding and ensure educators are paid in accordance with the Public Education Compensation Committee's recommendations.

Staff support: Department of Education shall provide reasonable and necessary support staff and materials

Visit www.visioncoalitionde.org for more updates and resources related to funding and the AIR report.