



Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

Vision Coalition of Delaware Statement on Hybrid Funding Formula and New Legislation

The Vision Coalition of Delaware is encouraged by the [Public Education Funding Commission's \(PEFC\)](#) progress toward creating a more student-centered and flexible funding formula. In [June, the commission agreed](#) to move forward with a hybrid framework, and [in November, a more detailed version](#) of the framework was shared with the commission. As of April 30, recommendations have been presented to the commission, voted on and approved—and draft legislation has been introduced to the General Assembly. For nearly two decades, we have prioritized this work, and we stand ready to support the commission in building a system that is equitable and designed to deliver the greatest impact for Delaware classrooms. The Vision Coalition is honored to be represented on the commission by several member organizations: Rodel (Madeleine Bayard), DSEA (Taylor Hawk), University of Delaware (Gary Henry), Brandywine School District (Lisa Lawson), Delaware Department of Education, (Sec. Cindy Marten), Seaford School Board (Marcus Wright).

Why the Proposed Hybrid Model and Proposed Bills Represent a Significant Step Forward

Greater Flexibility, Simplicity, and Transparency

The proposed system...

- **Increases funds targeted to student needs:** increases flexible targeted funding for students with higher needs by collapsing from 30+ lines of funding, each with individual report requirements, to just 3 components, 2 of which are student based
- **Streamlines requirements to maximize funding:** Reduces required position-types from 32 to 18, consolidates restrictive grant line items, and removes reporting requirements to give schools flexibility to meet student needs.
- **Protects educator salaries** and maintains a statewide salary scale.
- **Codifies a regular review cycle** for the funding formula to be reviewed and updated, avoiding another long stretch of inaction.
- Will give opportunities for **more community and family engagement** on district and school-level decision-making, since there will be greater flexibility on how money can be spent.



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New Legislation Presented:

- **SB 302** specifically allows the Department of Education to begin laying the groundwork for implementation of the hybrid formula, including updating computer systems, developing trainings for schools and districts, and updating financial management systems.
 - **SB 302** also defines and codify the hybrid formula, including the three buckets of funding: base, opportunity, and operational—all aimed at creating more flexibility and targeting more funding to high-need student populations.
- **SB 303** codifies the PEFC and commits them to further refine the hybrid formula (meeting at least twice yearly in perpetuity), addressing equalization and local funding, and continued review of the formula to propose updates as needed.

Strong Alignment with [Student Equity & Excellence 2035](#)

The proposed system...

- **Directs more state resources to students with higher needs**—low-income students, multilingual learners (MLLs), and students with disabilities—and ensures funding follows each student to their district, charter, or vo-tech school.
- **Expands school-level decision-making** so leaders closest to students can tailor staffing and programming.
- **Improves predictability** so administrators can easily calculate and rely on year-to-year funding levels.

Priority Issues That Still Need Attention

The Commission is making strong progress, and several key issues remain, which PEFC has committed to addressing in the next phase:

- **Addressing gaps between wealthy and low-income districts through equalization** by providing state funding to balance out disparities—and by requiring districts to contribute a local share to meet target funding levels for districts based on local wealth levels.
- **Reforming the local funding process** so districts can keep up with operating costs—within reasonable limits—without relying solely on voter approval in referendums.
- **Tiered funding for MLL students**, like the approach used to fund various levels of special education needs, in order to meet the varying needs of MLL students.



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- **Additional concentrated poverty weights** for our highest need schools and districts.
- **Building reporting and accountability mechanisms** for spending to meet student needs and promote equitable outcomes

Explore the Vision Coalition's [funding recommendations crosswalk](#), which compares PEFC principles with [Student Equity & Excellence 2035](#) and national recommendations.