

Education Funding Challenges and Solutions

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Prepared for:
**The Funding of Public Education in
Delaware: Part 2**

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sussex County and the American
Association of University Women



ABOUT RODEL

WHO WE ARE

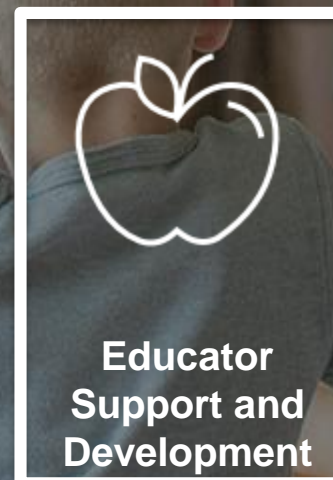
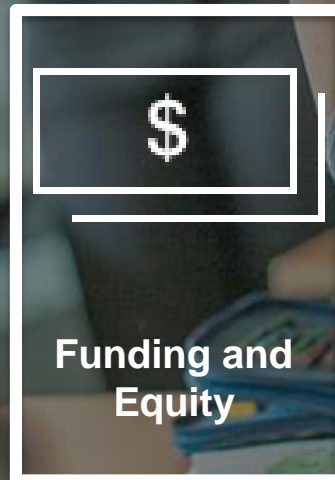
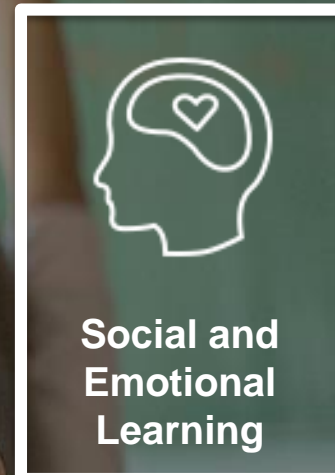
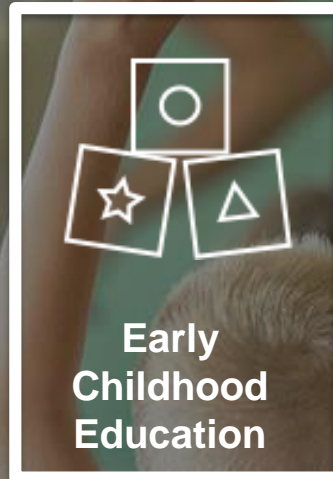
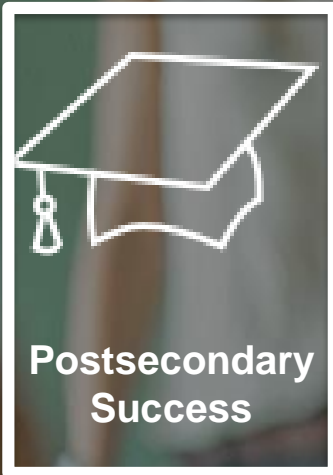
We are a nonprofit organization that partners with Delawareans and educational innovators from around the world to transform public education in the First State.

We're working to make sure every student in Delaware gets a great education and empowering our state to become a leader for equity and excellence.

Rodel

A GREAT EDUCATION
CHANGES EVERYTHING

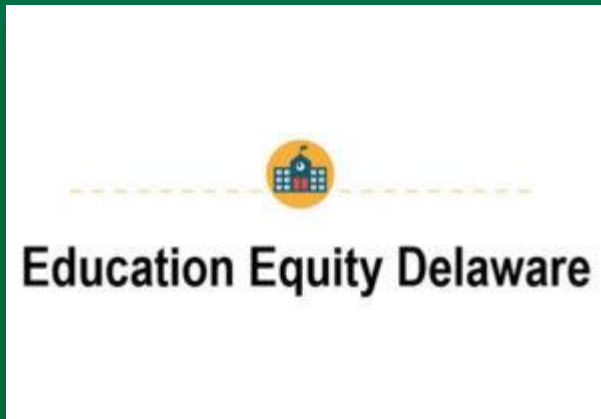
OUR FOCUS AREAS



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CHANGES EVERYTHING

PARTNERSHIPS

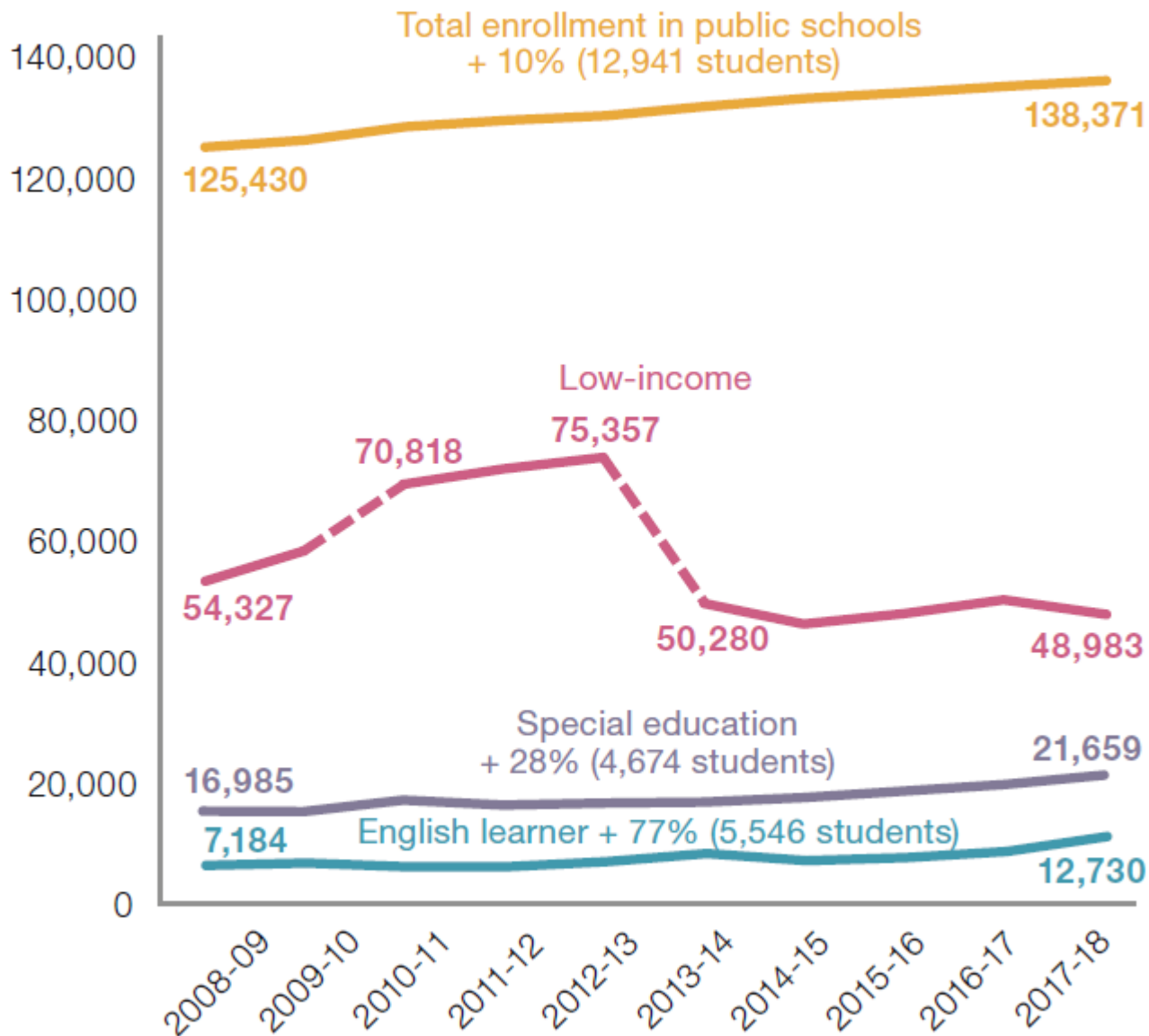


Rodel support: convening, operations, policy research and development, and communications



BACKGROUND ON DELAWARE FUNDING

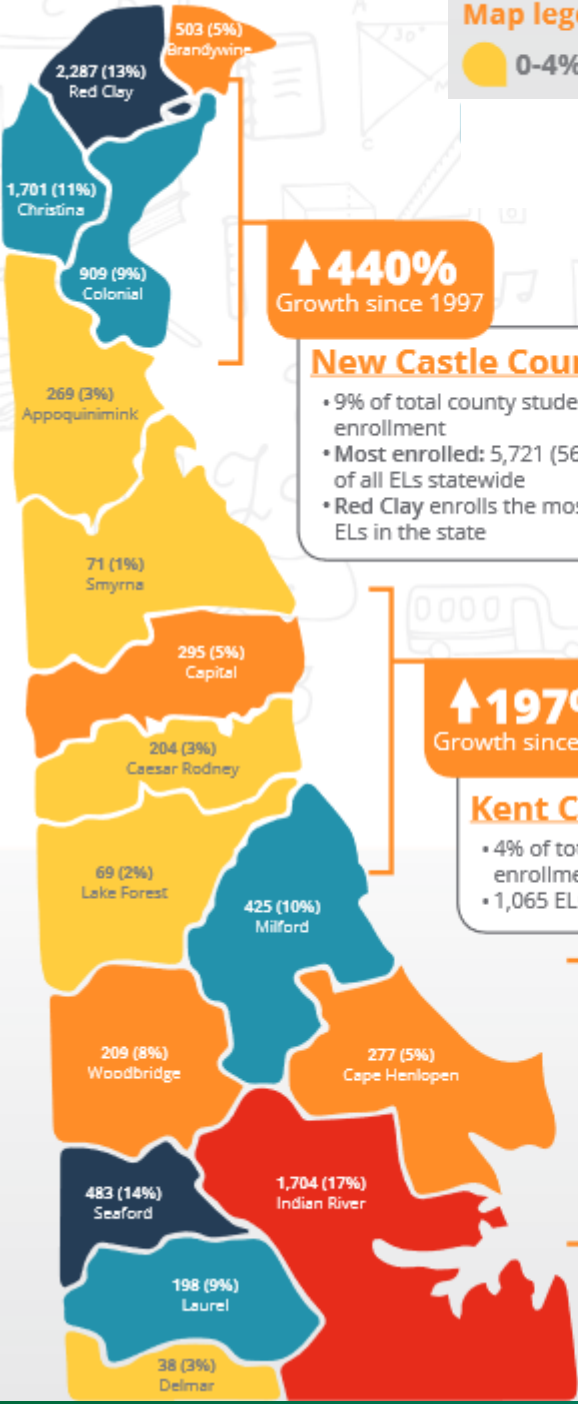
STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS BY HIGH-NEEDS SUBGROUP (2008-2018)



Map legend: Number of ELs and ELs as % of total 2015-16 district student enrollment



ENGLISH LEARNERS BY DISTRICT (2015-16)



↑ 440%
Growth since 1997

New Castle County

- 9% of total county student enrollment
- Most enrolled: 5,721 (56%) of all ELs statewide
- Red Clay enrolls the most ELs in the state

↑ 197%
Growth since 1997

Kent County

- 4% of total county student enrollment
- 1,065 ELs enrolled

↑ 597%
Growth since 1997

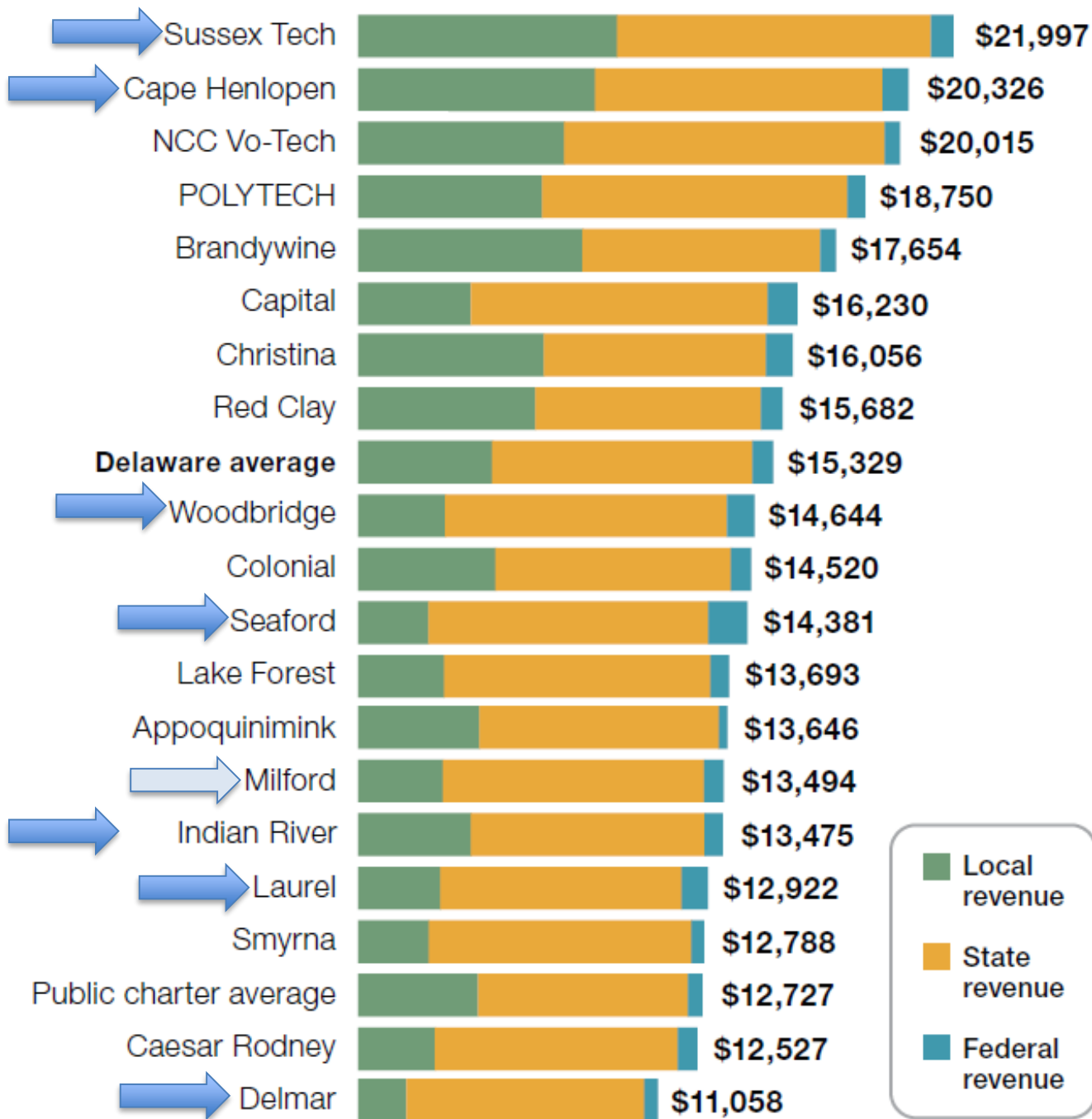
Sussex County

- Highest concentration: 11% of total county student enrollment
- 2,910 ELs enrolled
- Fast growing
- Indian River (17%) and Seaford (14%) enroll the highest concentrations of ELs in the state

Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2016).

www.rodelde.org/report/english-learners/

AVERAGE REVENUES PER PUPIL BY DISTRICT (2016-17)



Note: Per-pupil information is calculated by dividing total revenue by total student enrollment based on September 30 unit count (2016-17 school year).

Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2017). Report Educational Statistics 2016-2017 Finance Information.

www.rodelde.org/ataglance/

- Local revenue
- State revenue
- Federal revenue

CURRENT RESOURCE INEQUITIES

HOW MUCH money matters, and also HOW WELL it is spent.

Students from **low-income families** are far less likely to be enrolled in higher-level math in 8th grade than their higher income peers.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2017 Mathematics Assessment.

Schools with more **students from low-income families and students of color** are more likely to have novice teachers.

Data Source: DE Department of Education (2016–17), Data Request

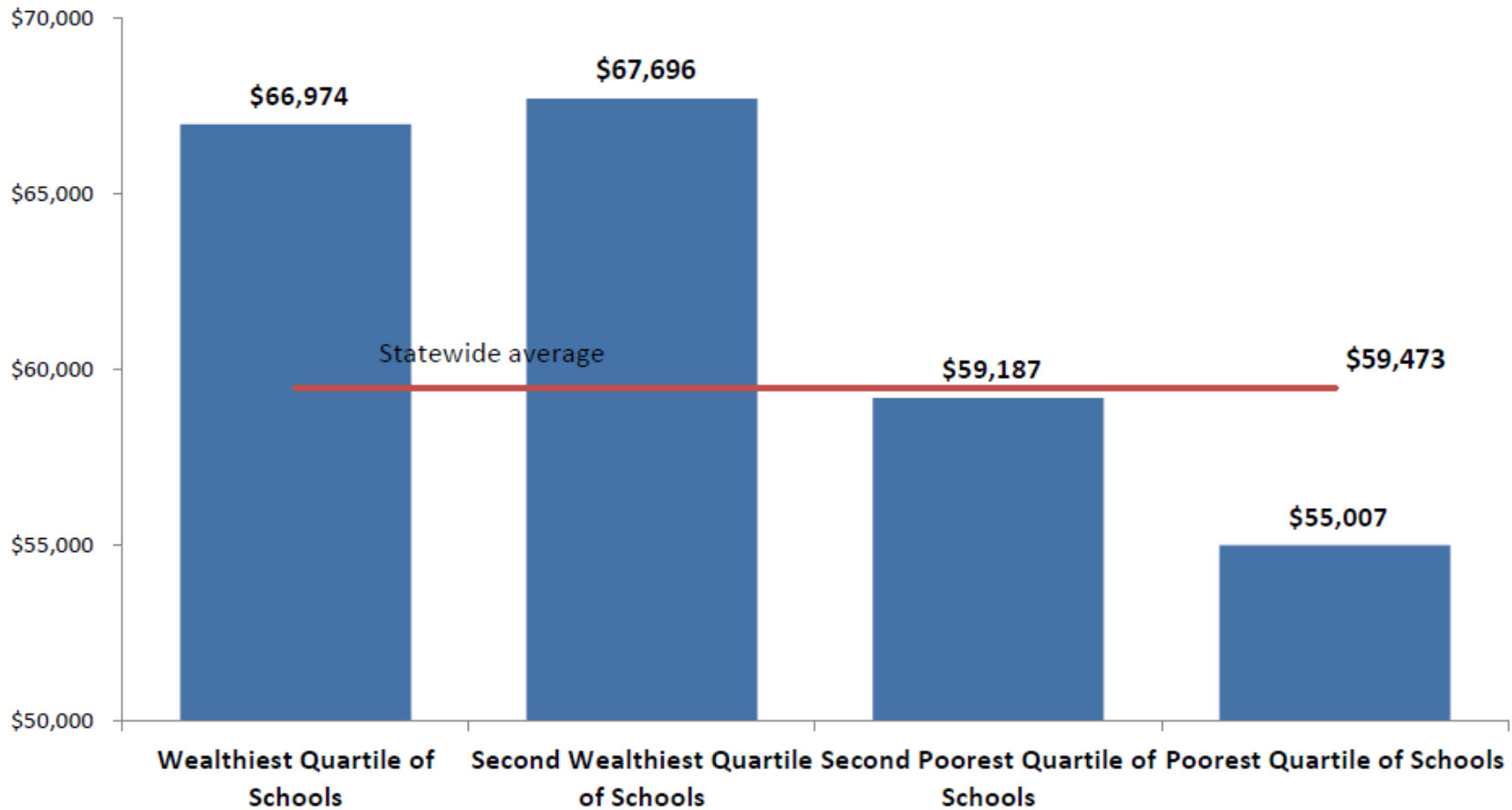
Districts serving more **students from low-income families** tend to have lower average teacher salaries than districts serving primarily students from historically advantaged groups.

Data Source: DE Department of Education (2016–17), <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/1490>

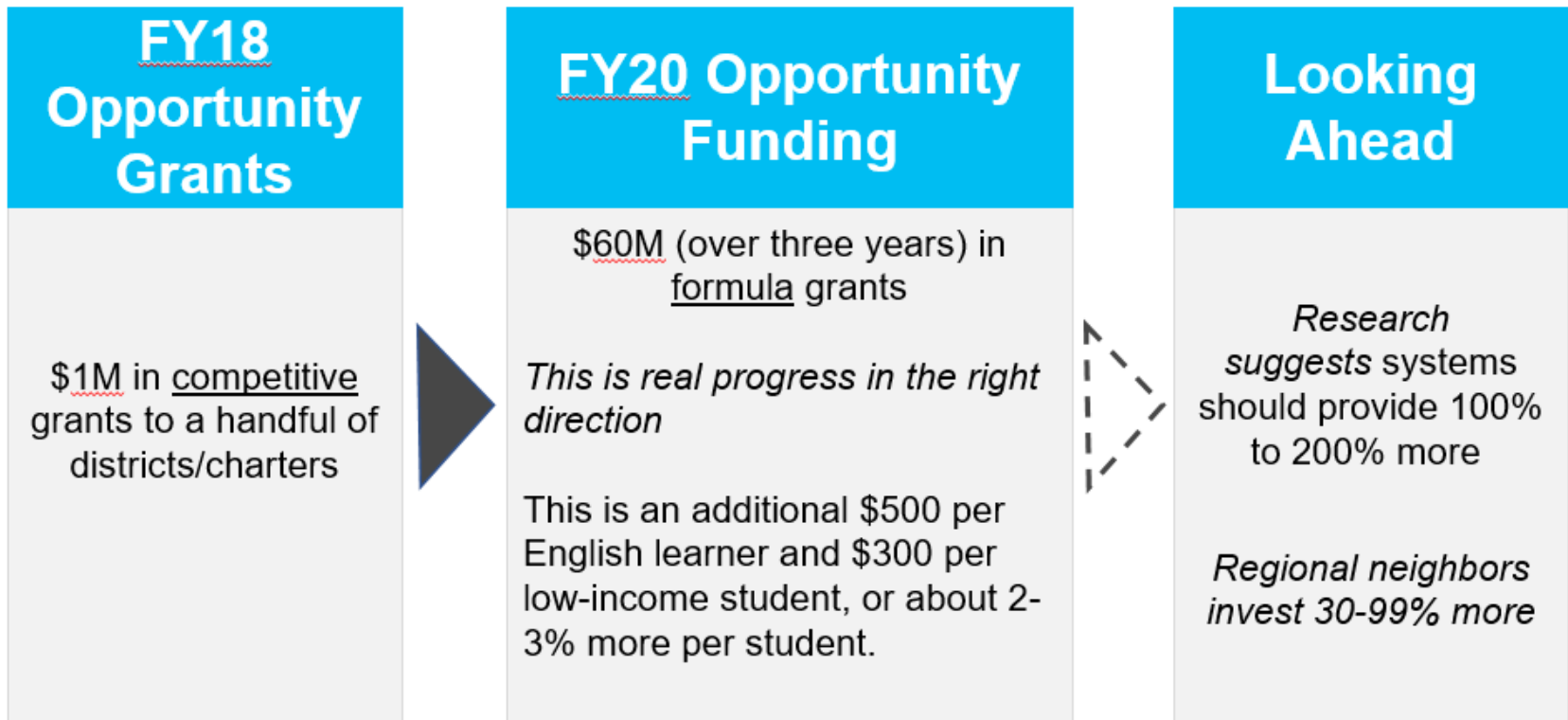
High-poverty schools have higher student-to-counselor ratios than low poverty schools.

Data Source: 2015–16 Civil Rights Data Collection and the 2015–16 Common Core of Data.

Average Salary by % of L-I Students - School Level



Delaware has made some progress in providing additional funding for students from low-income families and English learners.

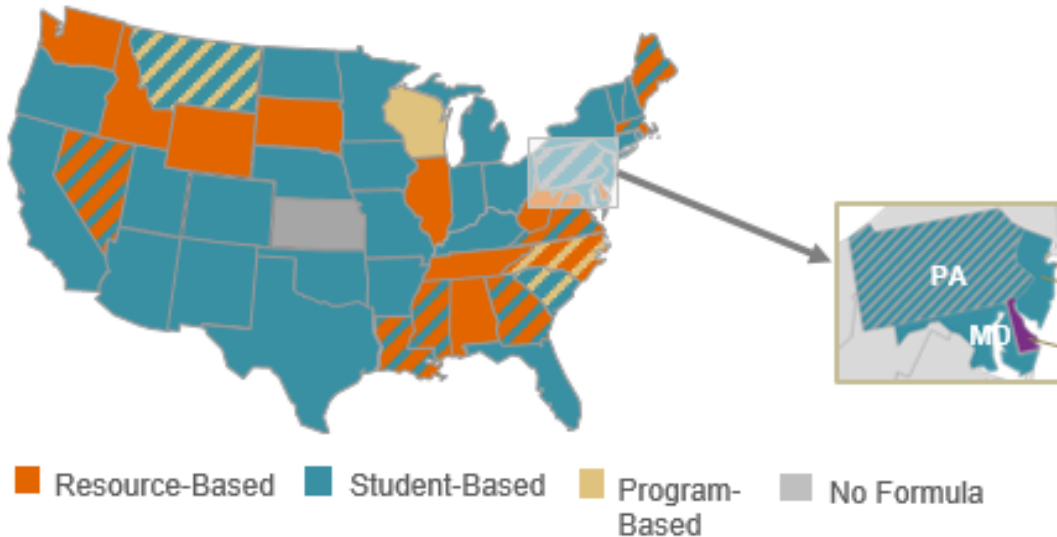


Sources: State of Delaware, Delaware News, <https://news.delaware.gov/2017/09/27/opportunity-grants/>
Delaware Department of Education, Opportunity Funding <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/587>



How does Delaware compare to other states?

Delaware is one of **8 states** that relies solely on a **resource allocation-based funding system**.



Delaware's neighbors use a student-based system

Other states that use a resource allocation-based system exclusively:

Alabama, Idaho, Illinois, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

<http://funded.edbuild.org/national#formula-type>

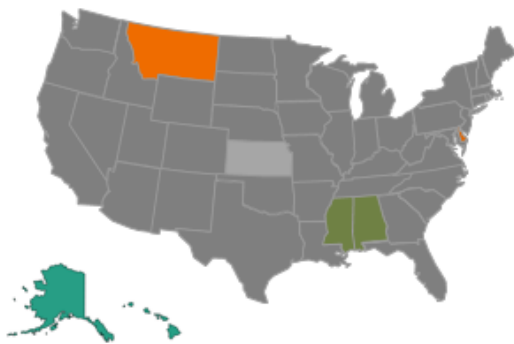


Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

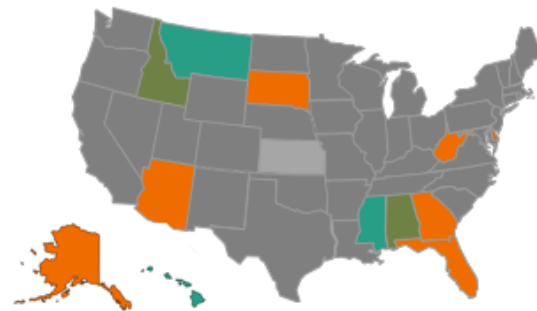
How does Delaware compare to other states?

Delaware is one of few states that does **not provide sustainable funding** or resources to support **English learners** and **students from low-income families**.

Supplemental Funding for English Learners



Supplemental Funding for Students from Low-Income Families



■ Sustainable Additional Funding ■ No Additional Funding ■ Ad-Hoc Funding ■ No Formula

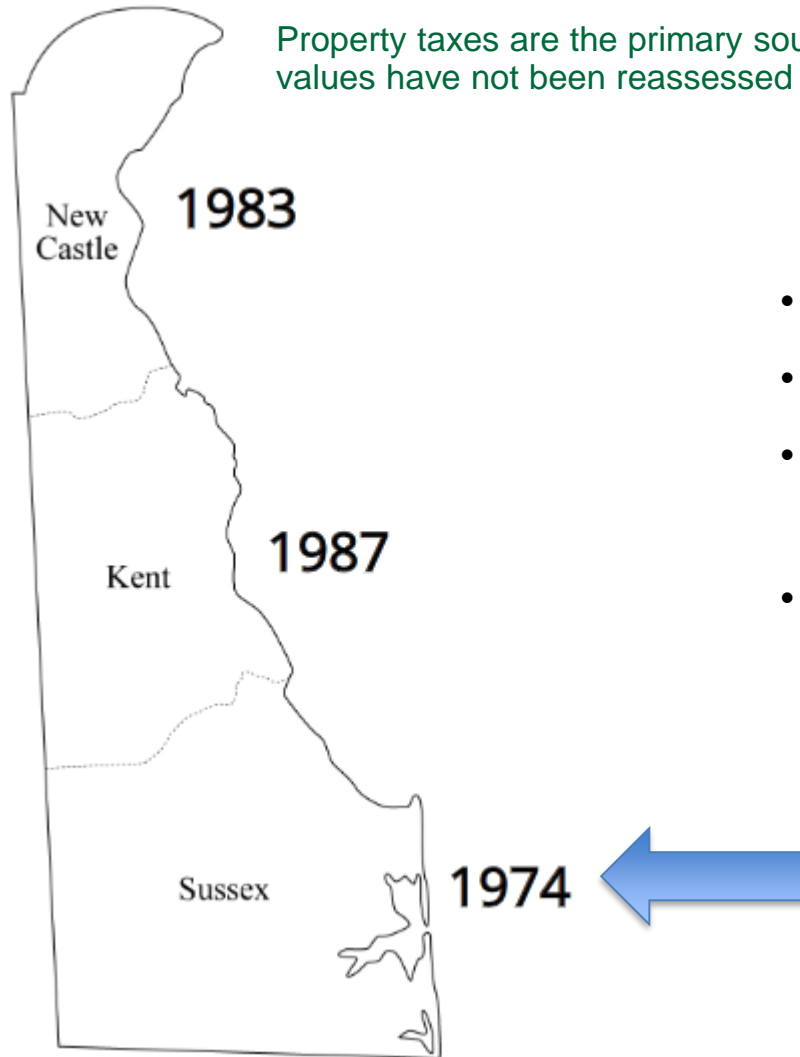
Source: EdBuild FundEd: A National Overview of State Education Funding Policies <http://funded.edbuild.org/national#poverty> & <http://funded.edbuild.org/national#el>



Preparing our students for a lifetime of success

DATE OF MOST RECENT PROPERTY REASSESSMENT

Property taxes are the primary source of local revenue for school districts. But property values have not been reassessed in decades and do not reflect current real estate values



- Negative impacts on equity and effectiveness
- Equalization formula inaccurate
- Majority of states conduct regular, automatic, rolling assessments
- Essential for sustainability



OPPORTUNITIES

1. GROWING PUBLIC ATTENTION

DELAWARE NEWS HEADLINES:

Civil rights groups sue Delaware over education funding for low-income, disadvantaged students

Judge refuses to dismiss lawsuit alleging state funds schools unfairly

Give taxpayers a clearer picture of school spending

Report: English learners, a majority of whom are native-born, victims of obsolete school funding formula

Delaware special education needs are growing sharply

Governor Carney Announces \$60 Million Opportunity Funding Initiative for Disadvantaged Students

Education Dept. pushes for 6.5% hike in spending

Historic moment looms for Wilmington schools

Indian River mulls options to address enrollment growth

Voters in Woodbridge School District Pass Referendum to Raise Taxes

2. AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES

The Vision Coalition of Delaware heard broad agreement that ...

1. **How much** money is allocated matters, but **how well** it's used to support student success matters just as much.
2. Delaware's current funding system has **strengths** to build upon, but also **opportunities** to improve.
3. Change will require a **gradual transition**, not flipping a switch overnight. There are things the state could do **immediately** that would have a positive impact for students.
4. To work best for all students, a funding system should have the following principles: **equity, flexibility, stability, and transparency**.

3. LEARN LESSONS FROM OTHER STATES

Most states in the nation have updated their funding system, can inform our transition process

Foundation Formula (33 States)

1. Determine foundation/base amount
2. Count students with weights
3. Multiply student count by the foundation amount
4. Determine state vs. local split
5. Add on outside funding (*capital, transportation, other*)



Your education policy team.

States Adopting New Formulas

- Since 2000 several states have have new school funding formulas:
 - Arkansas (2002) *Litigation*
 - California (2013) *Governor led/voter approved*
 - Kansas (2014) *First litigation then legislative led*
 - Maryland (2002) *Legislative led change*
 - Ohio (2013) *First litigation then legislative led*
 - Pennsylvania (2015) *Legislative led change*
 - Rhode Island (2010) *Legislative led change*
 - Wyoming (2001) *Litigation*



Your education policy team.

See handout: Delaware Education Funding: A Summary of the Current System and Recommended Changes (2016)

4. WITH NEW SCHOOL-LEVEL PER-PUPIL SPENDING DATA EXPECTED THIS YEAR...

Delaware will have the opportunity to better understand differences between schools within a district and the extent to which spending is aligned with student needs and outcomes, if data are collected and reported well

To see what data is available now for your school: www.reportcard.doe.k12.de.us/
To see what questions you can and can't answer: www.edunomicslab.org/delaware/



GET INVOLVED



Delaware English Language Learners Teachers and Advocates



Empowering Communities. Changing Lives.



WILMINGTON EDUCATION STRATEGY THINK TANK (WESTT)



Education Equity

A group of organizations committed to **excellent** and **equitable** education **opportunities** for all Delaware students—who believe the underpinning of an equitable education is the funding system.

www.educationequityde.org



Education Equity Delaware

Our Goals

Increase Transparency and Engagement

- Grow the coalition
- Build public understanding of how the system works and how money is allocated
- Advocate for school-level funding data that is comparable across the state so that we can understand our state's investments in education



Update Education Funding System

- Address how much funding is provided for students with greater needs, AND how well all funds are allocated, ensuring money follows students and meets their individual needs
- Learn lessons from other states and undergo the recommended process of **gradually transitioning** to a system where funding follows students and high-needs students get what they deserve



Better Serve Delaware's Students

- Create the conditions that will allow for increased student learning
- **Great leaders** are attracted to flexible, adequate resources—and **great teachers** stay where leadership is strong. Flexible, student-based resources can be targeted, and spent innovatively to **address the holistic needs of diverse learners**. A simpler, transparent system allows taxpayer and **parent engagement**

GET INVOLVED

1. Visit Education Equity Delaware for ways to get involved, and to sign up for advocacy alerts at www.educationequityde.org
2. Stay informed -- join our mailing list www.rodelde.org/sign-up/
3. Ask your legislators about their thoughts on education funding
4. Vote in school board elections May 12, 2020

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Additional Rodel and Delaware resources on education funding](#)
- [Rodel “At a Glance” data flipbook](#)
- [English Learner Fact Sheets](#) developed by Rodel, Arsht Cannon Fund, Delaware Hispanic Commission, and DELLTA
- [Rodel Legislative Monitor](#) –updated regularly during session with education legislation
- See links throughout this presentation

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