To promote the highest quality education for every Delaware student by providing visionary leadership and superior service.

**FY 2002 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

**State Board of Education / Department of Education**

- Recommend inflation and volume adjustments of $8.5 in Teacher in Space in Personnel Costs; $1.6 in Education Compact of the States for increased membership fees; $350.0 in Pupil Accounting for additional licenses, maintenance support and end-user training; $30.0 in Minor Capital Improvements/Annual Maintenance for growth in student enrollment and the age of school facilities; and $1.2 for Personnel Costs in the State Board of Education.

- Recommend inflation and volume adjustments of $2,921.5 for the Delaware Student Testing Program for student assessment contract increases. These
adjustments include $294.2 in the Delaware Student Testing Program – On Grade, $1,238.6 in the Delaware Student Testing Program – Off Grade, and $1,388.7 in the Delaware Student Testing Program – Retest/End of Summer/Additional Indicators.

♦ Recommend enhancements of $83.8 and 1.0 FTE Educational Associate for capacity needs; $72.7 and 1.0 FTE Education Associate for pupil accounting; $72.7 and 1.0 FTE Education Associate for the Delaware Student Testing Program; $2.4 in Teacher of the Year to allow for the inclusion of a candidate representing charter schools; $10.0 in the Delaware Educator Recruitment Initiative to expand marketing and advertising efforts; and $37.5 in Contingency-Background Checks to expand criminal background checks to all new public school employees on a first come, first serve basis.

♦ Recommend one-time funding of $40.0 in the Budget Office’s contingency for the State Board of Education to continue its study of monitoring the education accountability system.

Division Funding

♦ Recommend inflation and volume adjustment of $750.0 to Division III-Equalization, as a placeholder for potential adjustments to the formula, pending the recommendations of the Equalization Committee.

♦ Recommend enhancement of $3,447.9 for two additional professional development days for educators as required under the Professional Development and Educator Accountability Act of 2000. This enhancement includes $2,962.6 to Division I-Formula Salaries and $485.3 to Division I-Other Employment Costs.

Other Items

♦ Base adjustments include $4,869.8 to the General Contingency to reflect funding for projected growth of 85 Division I, II and III units for the 2001-2002 school year.

♦ Recommend inflation and volume adjustment of $4,000.0 for knowledge, skill and responsibility supplements as stipulated in the Professional Development and Educator Accountability Act of 2000.

♦ Recommend inflation and volume adjustment of $300.0 to Charter School Tax Relief for ten new charter schools approved by the State Board of Education for opening in September 2001.

♦ Recommend enhancement of $2,659.5 for school building awards. This enhancement will provide a biennial award of $1,500 per Division I unit for qualifying schools whose student bodies demonstrate superior absolute performance, superior improvement performance and superior distributional performance under the Delaware Student Testing Program.

Education Block Grants

♦ Recommend inflation and volume adjustments to the Professional Accountability and Instructional Advancement Fund of $2.8 to the Delaware Principals Academy for a two percent increase in non-personnel costs and $36.8 for the National Teacher Certification Program to enhance mentoring and recruitment activities and cover the application fee for candidates who retake a portion of the exam.

♦ Recommend inflation and volume adjustments of $490.8 to the Academic Excellence Block Grant. These adjustments include $167.4 in Unit Allocation for projected increases in enrollment in the 2001-2002 school year; $25.8 in Pupil Allocation for actual unit growth in the 2000-2001 school year; $47.6 in Pupil Allocation for projected unit growth in the 2001-2002 school year; and $250.0 in Pupil Allocation for substitute teachers.

♦ Recommend enhancements to the Adult Education and Work Force Training Block Grant of $322.2 to the James H. Groves High School to reduce the existing waiting list by 50 percent; $18.7 to Alternative Secondary Education for instructional materials and supplies; and $27.0 to Diploma at a Distance for additional student demands.

♦ Recommend enhancement to the Academic Excellence Block Grant of $152.1 in Unit Allocation for two additional professional development days for educators as stipulated in the Professional Development and Educator Accountability Act of 2000.

Special Needs Programs

♦ Recommend inflation and volume adjustment of $499.6 to annualize 24.9 FTEs Teachers, 4.0 FTEs Educational Leaders, 3.0 FTEs Secretaries and 1.0 FTE Education Associate for the Prison Education Program.
Recommend inflation and volume adjustments to the Student Discipline Program of $362.9 to accommodate the number of schools qualifying for Part II Base Incentive Grants and $92.5 for personnel costs for the K-3 Early Intervention Program.

Recommend inflation and volume adjustments of $1,500.0 for Unique Alternatives for growth in private placements; $83.9 to the Early Childhood Assistance Program to maintain equivalent funding with the Federal Head Start Program; $27.4 to Exceptional Student Unit-Vocational for unit cost increases; and $79.1 ASF to the Children’s Services Cost Recovery Project for expenditure projections.

Recommend one-time funding of $20.0 in the Budget Office’s contingency for Early Childhood Assistance classroom relocation costs.

Pupil Transportation

Recommend inflation and volume adjustments of $101.6 for depreciation; $106.3 for a three percent increase in insurance rates; $287.7 for a one percent increase in operational costs; $285.3 for a five percent increase in fuel costs; $37.0 for other employment cost adjustments; $56.0 for increases in the purchase price of school buses; and $500.0 to increase the choice and charter school transportation contingency due to enrollment growth.

Recommend enhancements of $630.8 for 15 new routes due to enrollment growth and $32.0 to purchase an additional four air conditioned buses for special needs students.

DACCVE

Recommend inflation and volume adjustment of $5.0 to Contractual Services for growth in vocational education workshops.

Delaware Higher Education Commission

Recommend base adjustments of $9.0 to annualize 1.0 FTE for data analysis; $1.9 to fund tuition increases at the University of Delaware for the B. Bradford Barnes Scholarship; $6.7 to fund tuition increases at Delaware State University for the Herman M. Holloway Scholarship; $20.3 to annualize Charles L. Hebner Scholarship recipient awards; and ($2.0) for the Diamond State Scholarship.

**CAPITAL BUDGET:**

Recommend $123,977.8 for Public Education projects. These include completing the funding requirements for the Capital and Seaford districts as well as providing funding for ongoing projects in the Appoquinimink, Caesar Rodney, Cape Henlopen, Colonial, Indian River and Smyrna school districts and funding for a new vocational technical high school in southern New Castle County. Also included is a construction contingency of $10,000.0 for those projects currently authorized but where bids have exceeded the amount allowable under the construction formula and a referendum contingency of $24,000.0.
MISSION

To promote the highest quality education for every Delaware student by providing visionary leadership and superior service.

KEY OBJECTIVES

In cooperation with local school districts, increase the percentage of students meeting state standards and improve Delaware’s performance on national measures.

- Increase statewide student achievement on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) in mathematics, reading and writing as compared to the benchmarks established relative to the DSTP.
- Increase the average Delaware SAT scores in mathematics, verbal and combined as compared to the 1997 baseline average.
- Decrease the school drop out rate for Hispanic and African-American students and for students with disabilities, as compared to the 1997 state baseline and the national drop out rate.
- Decrease serious discipline incidents in Delaware schools as compared to the 1997 baseline.
- Increase average student attendance as a percent of average daily student enrollment as compared to the 1997 state baseline and to national attendance rates.
- Increase the participation of eligible 4-year-olds in Head Start and Early Childhood Assistance Programs as compared to the 1997 state baseline and to national participation rates.
- Increase the percent of Delaware students continuing education in post secondary institutions as compared to the 1997 state baseline and to national continuation rates.
- Increase the number of National Board of Professional Teaching Certifications as compared to the 1997 state baseline data and to national criteria.
- Increase the number of certifications on the School Leaders Licensure Assessment, or another nationally recognized measure for Delaware administrators as approved by the Secretary of Education.

Implement an integrated information technology system that provides appropriate and user friendly access to data tools and best practice innovations.

- Ensure that integrated school management systems and services integration tracking systems are operational in Delaware schools.

Pursue the removal of financial and structural barriers to education reform.

- Reduce class size from class size reported in the September 30, 1997 unit count utilizing both state and federal funds.

Improve district, school and agency satisfaction regarding the quality of Department of Education leadership, service and communication.

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STATE BOARD AND SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 95-01-01

ACTIVITIES

While the department is considered a single budget unit, it functions as four branches.

Secretary of Education and State Board of Education

This unit provides for the general administration and supervision of Delaware public schools through the following:

- Determining the educational policies of the State.
- Consulting and cooperating with the local boards of education and their employees.
- Providing general supervision in designing educational facilities.
Education
95-00-00

• Surveying the educational needs of the state and identifying the means for improving educational conditions.
• Adopting rules and regulations for the maintenance, administration and supervision of a general and efficient statewide system of public schools.

Policy and Administrative Services
The Policy and Administrative Services Branch implements efficient and effective programs and services. These services and activities include:

• Allocating and overseeing the administration of state, federal and appropriated special funds;
• Data acquisition and reporting;
• Strategic planning;
• School plant planning including major and minor capital improvement programs;
• Transportation for public and private schools;
• Health services;
• Interscholastic sports;
• Charter schools;
• School choice;
• Food and nutrition services;
• Financial management;
• School support services; and
• Technology management and design.

Curriculum and Instructional Improvement
The Curriculum and Instructional Improvement Branch works collaboratively with schools and districts to improve student achievement. The branch coordinates with districts to improve and align curriculum and instructional practice with Delaware standards. In addition, assistance is provided to school districts in developing their capacity to implement data-driven planning and review processes in order to support school improvement, promote innovative and effective strategies to improve instruction, and ensure that community and state agency resources are included in efforts to support and improve student achievement.

Focus is placed on improving curriculum and instructional practice for programs ranging from early childhood through adult education, with specific areas of emphasis on programs for exceptional children and overall school improvement.

Assessment and Accountability
The Assessment and Accountability Branch oversees and provides leadership and assistance for statewide student assessment and educator accountability. These activities include:

• Development and delivery of the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP);
• Analysis and reporting of student, school, district and state test results;
• Training of the school district test coordinators;
• Certification of state-approved assessments;
• Oversight of student and school accountability requirements;
• Technical assistance and professional development for assessment;
• Requirements for test inclusion for students with disabilities and for limited English proficient students;
• Administering educator certification and licensure, alternate routes to teacher certification, new teacher mentoring programs, and National Board Certification for teachers;
• Oversight and revision of the Delaware Performance Appraisal System (DPAS);
• Administration of educational services for veterans; and
• Staff coordination for the Delaware Principals Academy.

Performance Measures
The following charts depict student performance in reading, mathematics and writing for 1998, 1999 and 2000, as measured by the percentage of students meeting the state standard across the three program years. Scores for students in grades three, five, eight, and ten increased over the three years in reading and mathematics. However, in writing, student scores in grades three, five and eight decreased while scores for students in grade ten increased.
In 2000, Delaware students in all test grades except ten performed above the national average. Furthermore, Delaware students in grades three, five, and eight have improved their performance in mathematics each year relative to that of their national counterparts. Percentile ranks of tenth graders increased in 2000 after a decline in 1999.

The Department of Education utilizes rankings from the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (SAT9) reading comprehension subtest that is part of the DSTP to show how Delaware students compare to their national peers. Delaware students have performed at or above the national average (50th percentile) in grades three, five, and eight and below the national average in grade ten since the inception of the DSTP. Percentile ranks for all grades have improved over the three testing years.

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<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Grade 10</th>
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<td>55%</td>
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<td>52%</td>
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<td>56%</td>
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<td>35%</td>
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<td>48%</td>
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<tbody>
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**SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

**95-02-00**

**KEY OBJECTIVE**

This unit contains the operating lines for school district operations including Division I, II and III; the General Contingency for unit growth; Delmar Tuition; and Debt Service.

**BUDGET**

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**DIVISION FUNDING**

**95-02-01**

**ACTIVITIES**

This unit contains the funding lines for school district operations including Division I (salary and employment costs), Division II (energy and all other costs) and Division III (equalization).

**OTHER ITEMS**

**95-02-02**

**ACTIVITIES**

This unit contains funding for Delmar Tuition (which provides funding for the imbalance in the cost of students from Delaware sent to Maryland schools and Maryland students sent to Delmar, Delaware for school); the General Contingency, which provides for annual unit growth; and other miscellaneous items.

**DEBT SERVICE**

**95-02-03**

**ACTIVITIES**

This unit contains funding for payment of state debt service on the Minor Capital Improvement Program and the School Building Maintenance Program.
**BLOCK GRANTS AND PASS THROUGH PROGRAMS**  
**95-03-00**

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**EDUCATION BLOCK GRANTS**  
**95-03-10**

**ACTIVITIES**

**Adult Education and Work Force Training Block Grant**

This block grant is used to fund the following programs: Adult Trade Extension, Apprentice Program, James H. Groves High School, Diploma-at-a-Distance, Adult Basic Education, New Castle County Learning Center, Delaware Skills Center, Alternative Secondary Education Program, Interagency Council on Adult Literacy, Communities in Schools Program and the Marine Mechanics Apprentice Program.

**Professional Accountability and Instructional Advancement Fund**

This block grant contains funding for several Department of Education allocations for professional development including alternative routes to certification, national certification, curriculum development, professional mentoring, the Delaware Principals Academy and summer school for teachers.

**Academic Excellence Block Grant**

The Academic Excellence Block Grant currently provides districts one unit for each 250 pupils. Districts may use these funds for a variety of purposes.

The second portion of this block grant provides an allocation of approximately $567 per Division I unit in Fiscal Year 2001 to be used for district computer grants, homebound instruction, substitute teachers, nurse staffing, student work study, conflict resolution training and extended day or year services.

**K-12 PASS THROUGHs**  
**95-03-15**

**ACTIVITIES**

This unit provides funding for programs that are operated by various agencies, with funding passed through the Department of Education.

- **Delaware Nature Society** offers summer courses to gifted middle school students in areas such as Freshwater Aquatic Biology, Estuarine Ecology, a Native American Program and Environmental Heritage.

- **Beach House** offers environmental education programs for moderately handicapped and gifted and talented students. The program offers both day field trips and overnight accommodations.

- **READ ALOUD Delaware** is a private, non-profit corporation devoted to the elimination of illiteracy in Delaware. The program attempts to provide the opportunity for each preschool child in Delaware to be read to on a regular and sustained basis.

- **Green Circle (STRIVE)** offers programs which teach students and teachers self-respect and respect for each other. Students are also taught to be responsible for their own behavior.

- **Summer School - Gifted and Talented** held at the University of Delaware exposes student participants to intense study in either the cognitive or visual performing arts for one week. This residential program invites gifted high school juniors.

- **Center for Economic Education** operated by the University of Delaware, provides pre-service training in economics to potential teachers. It also provides elementary and secondary programs in economics to teachers.

- **Educational Resources Program** provides career counseling and job information programs for students. Resource persons from industry are used extensively in this program. The program also includes the Business/Industry/Education Alliance. The members of this group include all the local school districts and many of Delaware’s largest employers. Activities include student career
awareness programs, orientation tours of business and industry, student and teacher internships, and the opportunity to discuss areas of mutual concern.

- **Delaware Institute for Arts in Education** offers a two-week summer workshop on the arts for teachers. It also offers assistance in planning curriculum in the arts and provides follow-up work in these areas.

- **Advanced Studies** for academically gifted high school seniors provides a team teaching approach using University of Delaware faculty members and public secondary teachers.

- **Youth Organizations** provides funding for the activities of a number of youth organizations such as Vocational Industrial Clubs of America and Student Councils. The funds provide training, competitions and travel to national conventions for members of these organizations.

- **Parent Early Education Center** provides services to parents raising their first child. Contact is made in the period of the last trimester of pregnancy through four months of age. The program provides home visits and group meetings until the child reaches three years of age.

- **Pregnant Students** provides the education component to pregnant students in the Delaware Adolescent Program, Inc.

- **Delaware Teacher Center** is designed to respond to teacher inservice training requests. All courses are designed by and for teachers.

- **Reading Assist** is an innovative program aimed at reading, writing and spelling for children who do not learn through traditional methods.

- **Smithsonian Project** provides specific professional development to elementary and middle school teachers in the area of science, for integration into the curriculum for students. The funding allocation also covers the expenses of purchasing and/or refurbishing science kits, which provide teachers with specific activities to lead and enable students to learn, through hands-on classroom experience. This project represents a partnership with private sector companies, who are supporting it with contributions as well.

- **National Geographic** supports teachers in their efforts to strengthen and improve the teaching of geography in alignment with the state geography content standards.

- **Jobs for Delaware Graduates** provides specialized services to at-risk youth at Delaware high schools. The four-year program is designed to keep students in school and provide a broad range of skills to improve employability upon graduation.

- **On-Line Periodicals** provides on-line, full text periodicals to all Delaware public high schools and middle schools through the University of Delaware.

- **Creative Mentoring** provides training for in-school volunteer mentors. The goal of the training is to ensure that a mentor can maximize the benefit of their time with a student.

### Special Needs Program

**Activities**

This unit contains programs related to special needs students.

- **Program for Children with Disabilities** provides educational services to developmentally delayed three- to five-year-old children. The appropriation is allocated by the Interagency Resource Management Committee (IRMC) which consists of representatives from several state agencies. The IRMC assesses proposals for service delivery annually and monitors ongoing efforts in this area.

- **Related Services for the Handicapped** provides one unit for each 30 units of handicapped students, excluding those units for autistic, severely mentally handicapped, deaf/blind, orthopedically handicapped and hearing impaired. This unit provides such services as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy or special counseling services.

- **Unique Alternatives** provides for the placement of special needs children in private settings when there is no suitable program to serve them in Delaware public schools, and also provides alternative education formats within districts.

- **Adolescent Day Program** is a hospital-based, day program for adolescents located at the Medical Center of Delaware in Christiana. It serves students with chronic and degenerative conditions in an educational and therapeutic environment. The educational component of this program is operated by the Red Clay School District.

- **Sterck Summer Program** is a summer program for students at Sterck School for the Deaf.

- **Tech-Prep 2 + 2** was moved in Fiscal Year 1992 from the budget for Delaware Technical and Community College to the Special Needs Program. It is the state consortium on technical preparation programs.
Student Discipline Programs were initiated in Fiscal Year 1994 to pilot alternative school sites for severely disruptive pupils. The appropriation supports these programs statewide to provide grants for school-based intervention programs for moderately disruptive pupils, as well as for community-based and school-based prevention programs.

Early Childhood Assistance was initiated in Fiscal Year 1995 and provides early childhood educational services to eligible four-year-old children living in poverty. During Fiscal Year 2001, a total of 843 children will be served.

Extra Time for Students provides additional instructional time outside of the regular school day or year for students underachieving in the four core content areas (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and English/Language Arts).

Exceptional Student Unit Vocational continues the program of vocational education for handicapped students.

The unit also contains funding for ASF programs.

Children Services Cost Recovery Project is a program aimed at the recovery of Medicaid funds for reimbursable services that are currently being provided.

### Driver Training

95-03-30

**Activities**

This unit provides funding for driver education teachers for non-public school students, for summer students, and for operation and maintenance of driver education cars in both public and non-public schools.

### Pupil Transportation

95-04-00

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<td>5,993.5</td>
<td>53,241.6</td>
<td>55,278.3</td>
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**Transportation**

95-04-01

**Activities**

This unit provides transportation to and from school for Delaware public school children and provides some reimbursement to non-public pupils for transportation.

During the 1999-2000 school year, 98,637 students on 1,560 school buses were transported over 20,480,000 miles. School bus-related accidents decreased from 212 in 1998-99 to 153 in 1999-2000. In addition, over 11,000 school bus contract addendums were processed.

The Department of Education also initiated a Safe Start Program for kindergarten students to familiarize them with safe school bus practices.
**MISSION**

The mission of the Delaware Advisory Council on Career and Vocational Education is to strengthen and enhance the vocational-technical education delivery system and to assist the State in providing quality programs and expanded opportunities for all citizens.

The council conducts evaluations, reviews programs, services and plans, and makes policy recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, Department of Education and the State Board of Education on matters pertaining to vocational-technical education in Delaware.

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

- Recommend policies that can be pursued to strengthen vocational-technical education and career and school-to-work initiatives.

- Analyze and report on the distribution of all funds for vocational-technical education and on the availability of vocational education activities and services within the State.

- Evaluate vocational-technical education programs, services, activities and school-to-work initiatives throughout the State.

- Provide technical assistance to local school districts, agencies and other organizations to enhance and improve the vocational-technical education delivery system.

- Advise policymakers on the development of the State Plan for Vocational-Technical Education and any amendments to the State Plan.

- Promote coordination, collaboration and effective partnerships among business, industry, labor, education and employment and training programs to help meet the economic needs of the State.

- Disseminate relevant career information to teachers, counselors, students and the general public.

- Monitor other workforce development initiatives and recommend ways to integrate successful components in the vocational-technical education delivery system.

**BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The Delaware Advisory Council on Career and Vocational Education was established by 14 Del. C. c. 86. The council is composed of individuals appointed by the Governor from both the private and public sectors.

The membership includes representatives from business, industry, labor and trade organizations and educators representing secondary, post-secondary, career guidance and counseling, special populations and special education.

The council monitors and evaluates vocational-technical education programs and services in local school districts, agencies and other organizations to ensure that these programs and services meet established state and federal standards.

**Accomplishments**

- Conducted in-service activities for middle and high school teachers, administrators and counselors relating to the development and implementation of Career Pathways in all schools.

- Provided support services to comprehensive high schools to promote the elimination of the general track and the implementation of integrated, sequential programs of study in vocational-technical education.

- Provided resources and technical assistance to develop, pilot, publish and distribute a guide to be used by teachers and counselors as an instructional tool with the CAREER COMPASS publication.

- Participated on, and supported the work of, the Business and Marketing, Agri-science and Technology Education Framework Commissions.

- Assisted with the development and expansion of Agri-Science, Tech Prep and Technology Education programs on a statewide basis.

- Conducted a comprehensive statewide assessment of the vocational-technical education delivery system and published biennial evaluation reports.
• Provided input and policy recommendations to the state Task Force on High School Graduation Requirements and the State Board of Education.

• Provided support to improve the services and activities of vocational student organizations.

• Assisted in the development of the State Plan for Vocational Education and its ensuing amendments, thereby recommending policy to the State Board of Education.

• Provided professional assistance and council input to the School-To-Work initiative.

• Worked with the Job Training Coordinating and Private Industry Councils toward implementation of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act and the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) in an effort to increase cooperation, coordination and communication.

• Conducted a comprehensive review of the JTPA delivery system and reported on its effectiveness and the extent of coordination with vocational education in the State.

• Provided resources to develop the Delaware CAREER COMPASS publication that is distributed to middle and high school students and teachers.

• Revised and implemented the awards and recognition program to recognize individuals and organizations who make outstanding contributions to the field of vocational-technical education.

• Assisted in the development and implementation of a statewide graduate follow-up system to track Delaware high school graduates.

• Provided staff development in the applied physics curriculum for secondary teachers.

• Sponsored a report that tracks the progress of the state’s vocational-technical high schools during a five-year period.

• Supported the establishment of the Business Industry Education Alliance and its ongoing efforts including Educational Resources Association activities.

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### Budget

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### Advisory Council

**95-06-01**

### Activities

• Coordinate a minimum of six meetings to review and analyze pertinent issues and identify initiatives the council will pursue to strengthen the vocational-technical education delivery system.

• Conduct on-site evaluations of career and vocational-technical education programs and other School-To-Work and Tech Prep initiatives in selected secondary and postsecondary schools to determine their compliance with state and federal standards.

• Collaborate with the Office of the State Auditor of Accounts in order to establish procedures to be used in monitoring local school district compliance with Senate Bill 385, the Occupational-Vocational Unit funding legislation, enacted in June 2000.

• Develop and disseminate periodic evaluation reports that include recommendations to strengthen and enhance the vocational-technical education delivery system.

• Provide technical and financial assistance to gather relevant data on students graduating from Delaware public high schools by participating as active members of the Graduate Follow-up Consortium.

• Communicate with the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education on the development of the State Plan for Vocational-Technical Education and any amendments to the Plan.

• Recommend specific policy for vocational-technical education to be included in the K-12 State Policy Handbook.

• Develop and disseminate career-related publications, guides, newsletters and reports.
• Monitor the goals and objectives of the State Plan for Vocational-Technical Education to determine the extent to which they are being achieved.
• Collaborate with other agencies and councils to pursue strategies that will lead to a statewide comprehensive workforce development system.
• Conduct special studies and audits as requested by the Governor, the General Assembly and the State Board of Education.
• Design, sponsor and implement professional development activities including curriculum workshops, staff development seminars and issues forums for individuals from the public and private sectors involved in the delivery of vocational-technical education programs and services.
• Provide technical assistance to local education agencies to replace the general education track in Delaware’s traditional comprehensive high schools with sequential vocational-technical programs that will better prepare students for the workforce.
• Conduct and sponsor public information and recognition projects that identify and promote successful vocational-technical programs and activities.

DELTAWARE CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
95-07-00

MISSION

The Delaware Center for Educational Technology (DCET) is committed to help empower children, through the use of information and technology, to achieve higher standards in education.

DCET’s goal is to create a technologically literate 21st Century workforce that will help attract and retain high technology companies in Delaware.

KEY OBJECTIVES

• Ensure voice, data and video connectivity to every public school classroom.
• Coordinate the evaluation and implementation of educational technology applications.
• Provide support for a modern educational technology infrastructure in Delaware’s public schools.
• Develop public and private educational technology initiatives and partnerships.
• Assist with the integration of technology and curriculum in public education throughout the State.
• Conduct professional development activities to assist educators with utilizing technology in curriculum instruction.

BACKGROUND AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the spring of 1995, the Delaware General Assembly accepted the recommendation of Governor Thomas R. Carper to establish the Delaware Center for Educational Technology (DCET). DCET’s focus is to create and maintain a modern educational technology infrastructure in Delaware’s public schools for the purpose of enabling students, through the use of educational technology, to meet the academic standards set by the State Board of Education and to develop the skills needed to succeed in a world-class workforce.
DCET is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors consisting of three members who have expertise in the field of computer information, three public school superintendents, two public school teachers, the Secretary of Education and the Executive Director of the Office of Information Services. The State Librarian, the State Budget Director, Controller General, Secretary of Finance and one representative designated by each of the Presidents of the three Delaware public institutions of higher education, are ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 1996 $30 million in Twenty-First Century Funds was appropriated to wire every public school with voice, data, coaxial, and fiber optics cable. By October 1998, DCET achieved this goal; providing at least one data port in each classroom fully connected to the Delaware Education Network and the Internet. Thus, Delaware was the first state in the nation to have network access to every public school classroom in the state.

The efforts of DCET have been recognized nationally, receiving a Computerworld Smithsonian Award for the Classroom Networking Project. The project is part of the 1998 Information Technology Innovation Collection. The case study and support material are part of the Smithsonian Institution’s Permanent Research Collection on Information Technology at the National Museum of American History.

Currently, DCET is coordinating the Server and Infrastructure Enhancement Project. In Fiscal Year 2000, as the first phase of the project, DCET purchased the servers that form the core of the statewide pupil accounting system. The second phase of the project is to ensure a server in every school that will serve the needs of the students. The architecture has been developed for the Delaware Education Network to deploy servers across the State.

### BUDGET

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### Activities

DCET activities originally centered on the school wiring project. At the conclusion of the wiring project, the focus shifted to hardware and software procurement, maintenance and support, and professional development.

Key activities for Fiscal Year 2002 include:
- Maintain and support the K-12 telecommunications infrastructure.
- Upgrade switches and electronics in the public schools.
- Conduct research and evaluation of electronic teaching materials.
- Evaluate Web-based subscription services.
- Provide for ongoing professional development to allow educators to be comfortable with using technology as part of their curriculum.
- Technically assist the Department of Education with the implementation of the integrated Pupil Accounting and Curriculum Management System.
- Support technology planning initiatives in Delaware’s public schools.
- Initiate statewide educational technology procurement contracts.
- Provide low cost access to the Delaware Education Network for educators from home.
- Conduct an annual technology survey in public schools.

### Performance Measures

There are several examples of success measures in technology-rich schools. These include: rising or sharply improved scores on state tests; improved student attendance; increased student comprehension, motivation and attitude; strong student, parent and teacher support; improved student retention; and improved placement in jobs. DCET will assist in the development of a baseline analysis to track these performance measures in future years, beginning with specific schools in which basic technology infrastructure has been installed. Some infrastructure indicators that can be measured include: the percentage of classrooms equipped with modern multimedia computers; the percentage of public schools connected to the Internet; and the percentage of instructors effectively integrating technology with curriculum. Other performance-based indicators will be developed as the infrastructure component progresses.
The Delaware Higher Education Commission (DHEC) seeks to increase awareness of and access to higher education for Delaware students; to respond to public demand for guidance and problem resolution; to effectively administer a variety of state student aid and contract programs; and to meet higher education information needs for state policy and economic development.

**Key Objectives**

- Improve higher education data collection and reporting for Delaware and provide access to comparative regional and national data.
- Administer state and federal student financial aid and contract programs consistent with higher education policy. Assist with the development and administration of private scholarship programs.
- Serve as a front-line resource about all aspects of college financing and admission.
- Increase awareness of the benefits of higher education and support early academic and financial preparation.

**Budget**

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**Background**

The Post Secondary Education Commission was created in 1975 to coordinate state efforts in higher education. In 1979, the commission was assigned administration of a need-based grant program. Other student financial aid programs, including the Delaware Higher Education Loan program, were assigned in subsequent years. In 1991, the Post Secondary Education Commission was renamed the Higher Education Commission.

DHEC publishes the annual Higher Education Fact Book (previously Data Book), containing the information most frequently requested about colleges in Delaware. This data will be made more accessible in Fiscal Year 2002 with the addition of the Fact Book to the commission’s webpage.

The commission coordinates with state agencies, high schools, community organizations and private industry to develop student guidance and financial aid programs. Focus is placed on administering seven private scholarship programs, publishing the annual Scholarship Compendium (which lists approximately 150 public and private scholarships), and providing college planning checklists for high school students. In addition, the commission, the Office of the State Treasurer and the Pension Office provide administrative support to the College Investment Plan, which encourages families to prepare for college by providing a tax-advantaged saving vehicle for anyone with an interest in a child’s education.

Promoting and rewarding students’ academic performance is a high priority. The merit component of the need-based Scholarship Incentive Program (ScIP) allows recipients to increase the size of their awards by their own academic initiative. The newly established Michael C. Ferguson Achievement Awards will be distributed to the top student achievers on the Delaware State Testing Program in grades eight and ten. The annual Legislative Essay Scholarship, designed after the highly successful one-time George Washington Memorial Scholarship, encourages high school seniors to research a specified topic in the period between 1770 to 1860.

Professional incentive scholarships encourage academically-talented students to enter shortage professions such as library science, nursing, teaching, speech pathology, primary care medicine, and optometry.
ACTIVITIES

- Improve higher education data that is available to policy makers by supporting data collection and reporting of state, regional and national data.
- Serve as an independent front-line resource about all aspects of college financing and admissions. Serve intermediary role in resolving problems with schools and lenders.
- Provide appropriate financial aid to students. Administer 17 state financial aid programs, affecting 13,000 Delaware students.
- Review and develop Think College! This is a campaign to encourage and assist students to attend college. The composite of services and publications are directed at college awareness, academic preparation and enrollment. The campaign targets middle school students and their parents.
- Provide an administrative link with Fidelity Investments in promotion of the College Investment Plan.