

Highlights of the FY 2019 Budget and Bond Bill

- Limits operating budget growth to 3.99%
- Sets aside over \$47.0 million by appropriating only 97% of revenues versus the constitutionally mandated maximum of 98%
- Appropriates \$49.2 million toward critical one-time items in a separate supplemental appropriation bill
- Funds “door openers” such as:
 - \$20.9 million for school enrollment growth
 - \$8.8 million for quality child care for more children
 - \$3.0 million to ensure fair elections
- Funds over \$440.0 million in new school construction, library construction, economic development projects, environmental enhancements, and state facility maintenance
- Invests over \$360.0 million in infrastructure enhancements for Delaware’s roads, bridges, and highways
- Generates over \$5.0 million in savings in areas such as energy, fleet services and restructuring of the Department of Education

Better Schools for All Delaware Students: The following will help prepare Delaware’s children to succeed:

- Investing in Educators: \$10.2 million for annual salary steps for educators, plus a 2% general salary increase for educators statewide
- Investing in Early Education: \$3.8 million to fund growth in Delaware’s early learning centers through the STARS program
- Investing in High-Needs Schools: \$6.0 million for Opportunity Grants, targeted to schools with high percentages of students at the poverty level and/or English Learners (EL) students
- Investing in the City of Wilmington: \$19.0 million to fund enhancements for schools within the City of Wilmington as part of the Governor Carney’s efforts to revitalize educational opportunities in the city
- Providing Resources for Early Grades: Student Success Block Grant
 - \$2.8 million in additional support for K-3 Basic Special Education
 - \$3.6 million to provide an estimated 45 reading teachers for elementary schools serving K-4, targeted to schools with high percentages of students at the poverty level and/or English Language (EL) students
- Ensuring Dependable Transportation for Students: A total of \$11.2 million to address
 - Current year deficit due to rising fuel costs and transportation provided to homeless students
 - Implementation of the recommendations of the Public School Transportation Committee to address increased costs
 - Projected new transportation routes for FY 2019
- \$131.5 million for new K-12 school construction, renovations of old school facilities, and maintenance of K-12 schools
- Over \$37.0 million in higher education investments, including the creation of a \$11.4 million Higher Education Economic Development Investment Fund to support projects at our universities and community college that will create quality jobs for Delawareans everywhere

Investing in Our People: The following will help maintain a strong and stable state workforce:

- Investing in State Workers and Educators:
 - \$1,000 annual raise for state workers
 - 2% raise for teachers statewide, on top of annual step increases
 - \$500 one-time bonus for all state employees
 - \$400 one-time supplement for all retirees
 - \$75.4 million for maintenance and renovations of state facilities, enhancements for state parks, and community drainage/debris pit remediation

High Needs Area - Public Safety:

- Funding for second year of correctional officer raises to \$43,000 starting salary
- \$3.6 million for implementation of correctional officer career ladder
- Over \$2.3 million to fund implementation of the Department of Correction Independent Review recommendations
- Establishment of a dedicated Special Operations Response Team (SORT) unit in the Department of Safety and Homeland Security.
- \$18.4 million for a new Troop 7 in Lewes.
- \$8.9 million to replace old state police helicopters

High Needs Area – Children’s Services:

- \$4.2 million to add 30 new casework staff and contractual support in the Division of Family Services to bolster child welfare, abuse and neglect hotline investigations
- \$2.0 million to add 29 new staff members in the Division of Youth Rehabilitative services to meet staffing needs in six secure facilities, and reduce mandatory overtime

A Healthier Delaware: The following investments toward improving Delawareans’ health:

- Attacking the Drug Use Epidemic: \$1.4 million for additional resources toward substance abuse treatment
- Addressing Prevention, Treatment, Resilience and Recovery of Mental Health, including substance use and co-occurring disorders: \$3.0 million for a Behavioral Health Consortium Contingency and \$2.0 million for the Delaware Health Care Claims Database
- Supporting Those who Serve Delawareans with Disabilities: \$4.6 million for contractual increases for provider partners providing services to those with disabilities
- Helping Those Born with Substance Addiction: \$285,000 of resources for substance-exposed infants
- Assisting Seniors with Maintaining their Health: \$2.0 million in prescription assistance for Delaware seniors and \$850,000 to support Senior Nutrition services
- Providing Access to Health Services for Women: \$398,200 for the Mobile Women’s Health Screening program
- \$10.0 million to enhance water quality and water infrastructure networks throughout the state