



FY22 ANNUAL REPORT July 2022

Delaware State Board of Education

401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901

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INTRODUCTION

The Delaware State Board of Education is pleased to present its 2021-22 Annual Report. This report highlights the Board's role in supporting and improving education in Delaware. While much of the Board's monthly meeting time is spent performing its statutory responsibilities such as reviewing and approving rules and regulations, and reviewing applications and modifications for charter schools, the Board also deals with a wide range of policy issues.

The 2021-2022 school year has been unprecedented as schools return to in-person instruction after operating in a combination of in-person, hybrid, and remote settings last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Board has used meeting time to better understand the policies and supports in place for students and educators and to discuss areas of additional attention needed, based on feedback from community members.

The Board's vision and mission statements along with the five priorities are contained within this report.

State Board of Education Meetings

The Board's regular monthly meetings are open to the public and are usually scheduled for the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Board rotates locations of regular meetings among Delaware's three counties, and provides an opportunity for members of the public to join virtually. The schedule for State Board of Education meetings can be [found here](#).

State Board of Education Documents

Minutes and recordings from the State Board of Education's meetings may be accessed through the [Department of Education's website](#). You may also access the State Board's Procedures Manual, membership information, and past reports on the website. Hard copies of these documents may be obtained by contacting the State Board of Education office. Meeting agendas and materials may be accessed on the [State Board of Education's eboard site](#).

Contact Information

You may contact the Delaware State Board of Education through Mr. Shawn Brittingham, President of the State Board of Education or through Ms. Kathleen Smith, Executive Director of the State Board of Education at (302) 735-4010 or kathleen.smith@sbe.k12.de.us.

The FY22 Annual Report can be found on the State Board of Education's website at <http://bit.ly/SBEDelaware>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As Delaware schools progress forward from the past two years of the educational system experiencing drastic changes due to Covid, our goal remains the same: supplying a quality education for all students. The challenges are real for all in the educational arena. The increases in stress, societal pressures, emotional trauma, and work overloads are just a few examples. With all the challenges facing education, it also creates great opportunities to improve. Change is inevitable, progress is optional.

FY22 saw many changes to the State Board of Education (SBE). At its December 2021 meeting, the Board bestowed the Order of Excellence to Dr. Susan Bunting in recognition of her decades of service to Delaware education. In January 2022 the Board welcomed its new Executive Secretary, Dr. Mark Holodick. The end of May 2022 saw the departure of former Executive Director Jenna Ahner, and the Board acknowledges her innumerable contributions in moving its work forward. In June 2022 Whitney Sweeney stepped down from the Board and resigned as President and the Board is grateful for her years of leadership. After having served as Vice President since July 2021, I was appointed by Governor Carney and confirmed by the Delaware Senate as President in July 2022. Executive Director Kathleen Smith began in July 2022, Board Member Deb Stevens was appointed, and new Deputy Attorney General Alexander Corbin replaced DAG Carla Jarosz. On August 1st our new administrative assistant Alexandra Sankoh started. By September 2022, the Board recognized Teacher Member Wendy Turner and Student Member Shelby Farris for their service to Delaware education, and also welcomed newly-appointed Teacher Member Dr. Megan Szabo and Student Member Nathan Cho. As this new year begins, the Board is ready to provide voice and leadership for Delaware's citizens.

The Delaware State Board of Education is committed to each student, parent, and educator to ensure all have access to a fair and equitable education. We will work with all constituents involved in education to prepare our students for the 21st century. The goal is to equip our students with confidence and competence for college, career, and civic readiness as they will be our leaders of the future.

This past year the SBE accomplished many things, detailed throughout this report, including: approval of 23 regulations, several charter school authorizations, the continued expansion of communication and public engagement, and further work on equity and early literacy.

In closing, the SBE is committed to improving the education in all Delaware schools as we charge forward. Let us look at what is right in education instead of what is wrong. Please feel free to communicate with the Delaware SBE as we are here to serve. Delaware.SBE@sbe.k12.de.us

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn B. Brittingham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Shawn B. Brittingham

FY22 DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP



Whitney Sweeney
President



Shawn Brittingham
Vice President



Candice Fifer
Member



Vincent Lofink
Member



Audrey Noble
Member



Provey Powell, Jr.
Member



Wali Rushdan II
Member



Wendy Turner
Member, Teacher
Appointed September 2020



Shelby Farris
Member, Student
Appointed October 2021



Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
through Dec. 2021

The State Board of Education consists of nine members. Seven voting members who are appointed by the Governor, approved by the Senate. Two non-voting members appointed by the Governor. Background information on



Secretary of Education
Confirmed January 2022

SBE Executive Secretary

each member can be [found here.](#)

SBE Executive Secretary

BOARD COMPOSITION AND ACTIVITIES (FY22)

Whitney Sweeney, President, serves at the pleasure of the Governor (resigned June 2022)

P-20 Council, co-chair

University of Delaware Board of Trustees, member (ex-officio)

Shawn Brittingham, Vice President, appointed January 2021, term expires 2027 (appointed President July 2022)

Delaware School Boards Association Board of Directors, member

Candice Fifer, term expires 2024

ESSA Advisory Committee, member

Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, member

Vincent Lofink, term expires 2023

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

Audrey J. Noble, term expires 2027

NASBE Board of Directors, member

NASBE Government Affairs Committee, Chair

Delaware School Boards Association Legislative Committee, member

Provey Powell, Jr., term expires 2025

Vision Coalition of Delaware, member

Wali W. Rushdan II, term expires 2024

Equalization Committee, member

Shelby Farris, appointed October 2021, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

Wendy Turner, appointed September 2020, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

DPAS II Advisory Committee, member

FY22 HIGHLIGHTS

This report outlines the work accomplished by the State Board of Education and key improvements from FY21 to FY22. Highlights include:

- **Approved 23 unique new or amended regulations**, representing an increased focus on policy during this fiscal year. This is a decrease from 32 regulations in FY21; Regulations included topics such as updates to educator licensure and certification requirements.
- **Approved 1 charter school renewal, 2 major modifications, and 1 new charter school.**
- **Closely monitored and discussed state and federal education response to COVID-19;**
- **Utilized the updated State Board hearing and appeals processes**, which will facilitate more efficient and expedient timelines for appeals;
- **Continued an increased engagement of the public** via use of virtual meeting platforms, clear opportunities for comment (i.e. DIAA Emergency Regulations), and opportunities to provide written comment to be considered by the Board;
- **Improved communications via:**
 - **Updated State Board website to clarify Board role** – including new pages on COVID-19, State Board FAQ, Process for Public Comments, Regulations information, Charter Schools, and Hearings and Appeals;
 - **Social media posting** – including regular posts about upcoming meetings and regulations available for public comment, and other pertinent information.
- **Conducted research with West Ed to inform certification and licensure policies related to early literacy.** Report received in August 2021.

The Board would like to continue to focus on these areas in FY23:

- Continue to expand communications and engagement with members of the public regarding education issues aligned with the Board's statutory responsibilities;
- Continue to develop partnerships with local and national partners to inform work and decision-making;
- Utilize education data and research to inform Board decision-making.

VISION, MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND PRIORITIES OF THE DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In October 2019, the State Board of Education approved a new strategic plan, including vision, mission, guiding principles, and priorities.

Vision

All Delaware students are engaged in learning that provides a foundation for success, preparing them to transition into postsecondary education and careers, engage with their communities, and continue to learn throughout their lives.

Mission

In collaboration with community stakeholders, the Delaware State Board of Education provides voice and leadership for Delaware citizens to ensure that the education system meets the needs of each Delaware student.

Guiding Principles

- **Equitable Opportunities:** Support high-quality educational opportunities for all students that reduce disproportionate student outcomes by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic conditions, and residence.
- **Student-Focused Education:** Advocate for the development of the whole child, including strong academic, social-emotional, and physical health and safety practices that provide a rigorous, relevant, and relationship-based education.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Engage and collaborate with the community and partners to enrich education policymaking with diverse perspectives that represent Delaware's citizens.
- **Data-informed Decision-making:** Utilize national, state, and local research and data to inform decisions.

State Board of Education Priority Areas

The State Board of Education has identified five priorities to guide its work over the next three years. The priorities are aligned with its statutory and regulatory responsibilities. The State Board recognizes the importance of collaboration with other agencies and organizations to attain these goals. Priorities are not listed in order of importance.

- **Student Well Being:** Strengthen state policy and practice to foster learning environments that support health, safety, and well-being.
- **Foundational Skills and Knowledge:** Leverage partnerships among early learning, K-12, and higher education to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge that contribute to long term academic success.
- **College and Career Readiness and Success:** Build and strengthen state policy and practice to support students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue careers and continuing education.
- **Educator Preparation and Development:** Strengthen state policy and practice to recruit, retain, and develop teachers and school leaders to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to be successful.
- **Partnerships and Innovation in Student Learning:** Engage stakeholders and members of the public, including students, to inform policy and practice. Promote school structures, systems, and initiatives that are innovative and can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community.

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: A YEAR IN REVIEW (JULY 2021- JUNE 2022)

Goal 1: Student Well Being: Strengthen state policy and practice to foster learning environments that support health, safety, and well-being.

- The Board and staff closely monitored and regularly discussed the impact of COVID-19 and the return to in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year.
 - Requested regular updates from the Secretary of Education;
 - Held discussions with representatives from the School Superintendents Association to provide updates on the status of work underway, common challenges, and use of federal funding within their districts (September 2021);
 - Received an update from the Secretary of Education regarding anticipated summer programs to support student learning and mental health (May 2022).
- The Board invited experts to provide information and engage in discussions on the following items related to this strategic priority:
 - Dr. Jeff Klein, Associate Director, Center for Research in Education and Social Policy, provided information on research conducted on Opportunity to Learn (OTL) data and COVID-19 impact research (October 2021).
- One of the primary functions of the State Board includes providing advice to the Secretary of Education on policies, rules, and regulations through the DDOE, the Professional Standards Board (PSB), and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA). Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of new policy or amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - Regulation 615 – School Attendance (November 2021)
 - Regulation 932 – Military-Connected Youth (November 2021)

Goal 2: Foundational Skills and Knowledge: Leverage partnerships among early learning, K-12, and higher education to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge that contribute to long term academic success.

- In 2021, the State Board of Education commissioned a project with the research firm West Ed to analyze Delaware’s licensure and certification structure related to early literacy. The report was released at the August 2021 State Board meeting and is titled [“Alignment for Early Literacy: Review of Delaware’s PreKindergarten to Grade 3 Licensure and Certification Landscape”](#). As part of this work, West Ed generated summary reports addressing each of the research questions established in the study:
 - [Brief 1](#): What is the evidence base for the current practices preparing teachers and support staff for teaching literacy?
 - [Brief 2](#): How do Delaware’s current pathways for preparation and the current regulatory structure related to licensure and certification align to best practices for supporting literacy for young children in pre-K–Grade 3?
 - [Brief 3](#): How does Delaware compare to states and countries that have seen increases in student achievement and growth in reading and literacy over time in their regulatory structures, certification process, and preparation pathways for supporting literacy?
 - [Brief 4](#): What are our recommendations based on this analysis?

The report was presented to the State Board of Education at its August 19, 2021 meeting. A recording of this meeting is [available](#). The slide presentation is [available](#).

- In February 2022, the State Board received a \$4,000 NASBE grant to support the Board’s Early Literacy work. The goals of the grant are: 1. Review Delaware’s early literacy licensure and

certification system and make updates to better support the student experience. 2. Explore opportunities to expand scope and impact of professional development to support early literacy.

- In an effort to continue the conversation around the findings and recommendations, the report has also been presented to the Department of Education, the Professional Standards Board, the P-20 Council, and superintendents from throughout the state. Board members will continue to engage in these conversations to strengthen policies that support literacy for our youngest learners.
- The Board invited experts to provide information and engage in discussions on the following items related to this strategic priority:
 - Ms. Theresa Bennett, DDOE, provided information on 2021 and 2022 state assessment results, including context on assessments from 2019-2022, proficiency rates, and participation data (August 2021, June 2022).
 - Ms. Yvette Sanchez Fuentes, DDOE, provided information on recent early childhood legislation, as well as professional development and technical assistance systems available via the Department. She also provided an overview of the state's use of American Rescue Plan funding, in support of early childhood education (October 2021).
 - Ms. Monica Gant and Mr. Jon Neubauer provided updates on the Department's work on early literacy, and discussed alignment with recommendations made via the P-20 Council and the West Ed report (October 2021).

Goal 3: College and Career Readiness and Success: Build and strengthen state policy and practice to support students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue careers and continuing education.

- Approval of new policy or amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - [Regulation 505 – High School Graduation Requirements and Diplomas](#) (July 2021)
 - [Regulation 525 – Requirements for Career and Technical Education Programs](#) (August 2021)
 - [Regulation 1203 – Scholarship Incentive Program \(ScIP\)](#) (September 2021)
 - [Regulation 915 – James H. Groves High School](#) (June 2022)

Goal 4: Educator Preparation and Development: Strengthen state policy and practice to recruit, retain, and develop teachers and school leaders to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to be successful.

- One of the primary functions of the State Board includes providing advice to the Secretary of Education on policies, rules, and regulations through the DDOE and the PSB. Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of amendments to the following PSB regulations:
 - [Regulation 1534 – Middle Level Social Studies Teacher](#) (September 2021)
 - [Regulation 1544 – Secondary Social Studies Teacher](#) (September 2021)
 - [Regulation 1556 – School to Work Transition Teacher](#) (September 2021)
 - [Regulation 1542 – Secondary Mathematics Teacher](#) (September 2021)
 - [Regulation 1583 – School Psychologist](#) (September 2021)
 - [Regulation 1539 – Health Education Teacher](#) (November 2021)
 - [Regulation 1558 – Theatre Teacher](#) (January 2022)
 - [Regulation 1560 – Art Teacher](#) (January 2022)
 - [Regulation 1563- Music Teacher](#) (January 2022)
 - [Regulation 1511 – Issuance and Renewal of Continuing License](#) (February 2022)
 - [Regulation 1549 – Dance Teacher](#) (May 2022)
 - [Regulation 1550- AgriScience Teacher](#) (May 2022)

- Regulation 1564- Physical Education Teacher (May 2022)
- Regulation 1565- World Language Teacher (May 2022)
- Regulation 1532 – Middle Level Mathematics Teacher (May 2022)
- Regulation 1557 – Technology Education Teacher (May 2022)
- Regulation 1553 – Driver Education and Traffic Safety Education Teacher (June 2022)

Goal 5: Partnerships and Innovation in Student Learning: Promote school structures, systems, and initiatives that are innovative and can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community.

- Beginning in September 2021, the Board resumed the rotation of its regular monthly meetings throughout the state. Board meetings were held in the following school districts or schools: Appoquinimink, Laurel, New Castle County Vo-Tech, and Capital. School districts hosting the meetings were invited to provide a presentation regarding innovative work underway in the district. The following were provided:
 - **Appoquinimink School District:** Assistant Superintendent Sharon Pepukayi and Principal Melisa Stilwell provided information on the Elementary Virtual Academy (September 2021).
 - **Laurel School District:** Superintendent Shawn Larrimore and Laurel School District staff provided information on “The Pandemic, Its Impact on SEL, and a Possible Path Forward”, and English Learner Programs (November 2021).
 - **New Castle County Vocational Technical School District:** Superintendent Joe Jones, Terri Villa, and Chris Moxley provided an overview of career and technical programs offered in the district and at Howard High School.
 - **Capital School District:** Superintendent Vilicia Cade provided an overview of the Capital School District, her approach as a new superintendent, district priorities, and challenges. She highlighted innovative work underway to support the manufacturing industry, teaching, and the supply of bus drivers.
- The State Board of Education partners with the Secretary of Education on actions related to charter schools. The Board invited DDOE’s Charter School Office to participate in regular conversations during meetings, including discussion regarding school operations, enrollment updates, and updates regarding conditions previously placed on Great Oaks Charter School’s major modification. One Board member sits on the Charter School Accountability Committee in an ex-officio capacity. Throughout the year, the following actions were taken:
 - Renewal of Academy of Dover: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for the Academy of Dover for five years (December 2021).
 - Major Modification of East Side Charter School: the Board concurred with the Secretary’s decision and approved the major modification request of East Side Charter School, with conditions related to submitting plans regarding participation on mandated state assessments, a detailed instructional and assessment protocol, securing student medications and records, and a nursing services plan at the Teen Warehouse. The school must also submit a revised budget, a copy of the fully executed lease agreement, a written plan for student transportation with a revised budget, and a plan for accommodating increased enrollment if construction is delayed.
 - Major Modification of Academia Antonia Alonso: The Board concurred with the Secretary’s decision and approved the major modification request of Academia Antonia Alonso. (May 2022)
 - New School Application for the Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence (BASSE): The Board concurred with the Secretary’s decision and approved the new application request of the BASSE. (May 2022)
 - Discussions regarding the new charter school application for Freire Newark: The Board discussed the new school application. Board members participated in the initial CSAC meeting and raised concerns about the financial information provided in the application. (Winter 2022)
 - Minor Modification of Odyssey Charter School: The Board discussed the minor modification application for Odyssey Charter School. A Board member participated in the CSAC meetings for this modification. Because this is a minor modification, the application did not require the assent of the State Board of Education. (March/May 2022)

- Financial, Programmatic and Compliance Review of Great Oaks Charter School: Board members participated in the CSAC compliance review. No action from the Board was requested at this time. (May 2022)
- Utilized the Board's experience via the Board's recent experiences with major modification, new school applications, formal reviews, and participation in CSAC, to provide feedback regarding:
 - Potential improvements to Delaware's charter school law (September 2021);
 - Considerations and next steps related to the licensure and certification requirements for charter school administrators (March 2022)
 - Process, regulatory, or statutory improvements relating to charter schools. This includes a dialogue with a representative of the Department of Education and the Charter School Network. (May 2022).
- The Board invited experts to provide information and engage in discussions on the following items related to this strategic priority:
 - Mr. Jon Sheehan, Office of the Governor and Mr. Jim Simmons, DDOE, provided information on the Wilmington Learning Collaborative. The presenters highlighted current challenges, the proposed structure of the collaborative, lessons learned from other cities and states, potential benefits, engagement to date, state funding and timeline to support implementation, and next steps. (January 2022)
 - Ms. Chantel Janiszewski, DDOE, provided a recap of the current accountability system, an update on the timeline and expectations from the US Department of Education for submitting an addendum to the accountability system, next steps for DDOE, and the changes to be proposed through the addendum process. (February 2022)
 - Ms. Jasha Tabron, 2022 Delaware State Teacher of the Year, was recognized for her accomplishments and dedication to students. Ms. Tabron discussed her platform and priorities of career opportunities for special education students, a teacher of the year advisory board that captures the diverse background and perspectives of these educators, and recruitment and retention supports for new educators. (May 2022).
- Board members developed a draft Equity Framework for consideration in future work. The framework was discussed with the Board and will be approved at a future meeting.

P-20 Council:

The P-20 Council, co-chaired by the President of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education, met 5 times during the 2021-22 school year to hear reports, receive updates on committee activities, and recommend next steps related to P-20 Council priorities. The summary of those activities are noted below:

- **General updates**
 - Provided updates related to the "Teaching and Learning" survey results, which provided feedback from students, families, and educators regarding changes to school and life as a result of COVID-19. Feedback was provided on the themes of: access and connectivity, students' academic needs, resources and supports, communication, and wellness and social emotional learning. (July 2021)
 - Discussed the Department of Education's strategy to accelerate learning and resources and supports available during the summer of 2021. (July 2021)
 - Discussed 2021 Legislative and Budget Updates. (July 2021, February 2022)
- **Early Childhood Development and School Readiness**
 - Discussed a professional learning series called "Delaware Delivers", the state's campaign to increase the quality of instruction in Delaware schools. (July 2021)
 - Hosted a presentation with West Ed staff regarding the findings and recommendation of the State Board commissioned research on literacy (see page 9). This research was developed

- in response to recommendations developed by the P-20 Council's early literacy subcommittee in FY20. (September 2021)
- Hosted a presentation with Department of Education staff regarding work underway to support the State Literacy Plan. (November 2021)
 - Hosted a presentation with Department of Education staff regarding Early Care and Education updates. (November 2021)
 - Hosted a panel discussion with P-20 Council partners (DDOE, Early Childhood Council, Delaware State University) regarding early childhood workforce initiatives and partnerships. (February 2022)
 - Provided an introduction to the new Associate Secretary, Early Childhood Supports.
- **College and Career Readiness and Success**
 - Hosted a discussion with Department of Education staff regarding Delaware's career pathways, lessons learned, and goals for the next 5 years. (November 2021)
 - Hosted a discussion with Department of Education staff regarding Delaware's postsecondary system and next steps related to credit for prior and experiential learning. (November 2021)
 - Facilitated conversation across P-20 Council partners (Delaware Technical Community College, Delaware State University, and the Department of Labor) regarding funding to support post-secondary training. (February 2022)
 - Hosted a discussion regarding the scope and outline of a cross-stakeholder data governance committee. The Council provided feedback and staff will present to the Family Services Cabinet Council in June. (April 2022)
 - **Educator Preparation and Success**
 - Hosted a conversation with the Department of Education regarding the Early Childhood Education and K12 Teacher Academy programs, the Educators Rising pilot, and innovative partnerships between districts and Delaware higher education institutions. (July 2021)
 - Discussed major themes and takeaways from FY21 conversations related to recruitment and retention, opportunities to leverage work currently underway, and gathered feedback on potential future areas of focus. (July 2021)
 - Discussed educator preparation updates, including anticipated funding to support year-long residencies, the educator evaluation system, and the removal of the performance assessment. Updates on the DE Accreditation Cohort and the Educator Preparation Program Report Card Committee were also provided. (September 2021)
 - Hosted conversations with Delaware Technical Community College and Wilmington University regarding their approach to the teacher shortage and new programs. (April 2022)

State Board Operations and External Engagement

- Every ten years, the State Election Commissioner redraws the school district boundaries of the Brandywine School District, the Christina School District, the Colonial School District, and the Red Clay Consolidated School District, based on the results of the most recent population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The nominating districts are drawn by the State Election Commissioner, subject to the approval of the State Board of Elections and the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education worked with the Department of Elections to establish a written public comment process. The updated nominating district maps were approved at the December 2021 meeting. (November, December 2021).
- The Board recognized Dr. Susan Bunting's career dedicated to supporting Delaware students and educators with the State Board of Education Order of Excellence. (December 2021).
- The State Board fulfilled its statutory responsibilities regarding student appeals. (Fall 2021)