

Public Education Funding Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2025

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

The Public Education Funding Commission (PEFC) meeting was held on May 5, 2025, with the following members in attendance:

Cindy Marten, Ruth Ann Miller, Biran Maxwell, Laura Sturgeon, Kim Williams, Eric Buckson, Taylor Hawk, Tammy Croce, Kevin Long, David Tull, Emily Falcon, Nick Johnson, Rachel Valentin, Evelyn Edney, April Albury-Harmon, Karen Ewing, Sarah Celestin, Helen Anderson, Jennifer Fuqua, Britney Mumford, Gary Henry, Madeleine Bayard, Marcus Wright, Lisa Lawson, Sage Sawhney

Also participating were Sarah Barzee, WestEd, and Michael Griffith, Learning Policy Institute.

[Audio Recording of Meeting](#)

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Sturgeon opened the meeting and invited Sarah Barzee (WestEd) to conduct a verbal roll call. A quorum was confirmed, and the meeting was officially called to order. Senator Sturgeon welcomed Denise Carter, newly appointed Deputy Secretary for Strategic Initiatives at the Delaware Department of Education.

Approval of April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2025 meeting. Representative Williams motioned to approve and Marcus Wright seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business

The Chair began this section by reminding members of the five core values guiding the Commission's work. She then introduced Mike Griffith from LPI.

Mr. Griffith shared a revised version of the funding model that was first introduced during the April 28th meeting. He explained that this model currently reflects only state education funding. It does not yet include local funding based on property wealth or any federal funds. The goal of this version is to provide a clearer picture of how a hybrid model could function. He emphasized that this model is still in development and will continue to evolve with feedback and updated data.

The Chair then reiterated that equalization will be an essential part of the final funding formula. She noted that new property data, expected later this summer, will play a key role in shaping that component of the model. She reassured the group that the framework shared today is flexible enough to adapt as new data becomes available.

Next, Mr. Griffith gave an overview of how the current state funding formula supports certain student groups through weighted funding, such as:

- Students in grades K–3
- Students in special education (basic, intensive, and complex levels)
- Students in vocational-technical (vo-tech) programs

He also discussed the Opportunity Fund, which provides additional funding for low-income and multilingual learners. He acknowledged that current funding levels are likely not enough and should be increased.

Following that, the Chair referenced a color-coded handout titled, Hybrid Model Crosswalk, that was distributed to Commission members. The document provides an overview of the recommendations for how the current components of the funding system would be modified or changed in the hybrid system. The document outlines three tiers: Opportunity Funding Tier, Base Funding Tier, and Operational Flex Funding Tier.

One significant change proposed is that schools would no longer need to submit applications to receive Opportunity Funds. Instead, funding would be distributed based on the number of eligible students enrolled in each district or school. This change is intended to reduce administrative burden and increase the flexibility schools have in meeting student needs.

Following the presentation, Commission members were invited to ask questions and share their perspectives. An open discussion followed.

Public Comment

The commission heard public comment from Bill Doolittle, Kendall Massett and Joanne Schlossberg.

Adjournment

Senator Sturgeon reiterated the June 2nd meeting would be held virtually from 4:00-6:00. Marcus Wright moved to adjourn, and Representative Kim Williams seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Sullivan for WestEd

Updated on 05.14.2025