

Public Education Funding Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

The Public Education Funding Commission (PEFC) meeting was held on November 10, 2025, with the following members in attendance:

Cindy Marten, Ruth Ann Miller, Ann Visalli, Laura Sturgeon, Kim Williams, Eric Buckson, Taylor Hawk, Susan Brown, Kevin Long, David Tull, Jason Hale, Emily Falcon, Nick Johnson, Rachel Valentin, Jose Aviles Rivera, Evelyn Edney, April Albury-Harmon, Melissa Tracy, Cassie Queen, Sarah Celestin, Helen Anderson, Jennifer Fuqua, Britney Mumford, Gary Henry, Madeleine Bayard, Meedra Surratte, Marcus Wright, Lisa Lawson

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

[Audio Recording of Meeting](#)

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Sturgeon opened the meeting and invited Anna Sullivan from WestEd to conduct a verbal roll call. A quorum was confirmed and the meeting was officially called to order.

Approval of October 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2025 meeting. Marcus Wright motioned to approve, and David Tull seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business

The Chair introduced Deputy Secretary Denise Carter, who reviewed the overall timeline guiding the Commission's work, including key legislative milestones, public engagement activities, and implementation phases. Carter then introduced Mike Griffith.

Griffith summarized feedback from commission members on the draft hybrid funding formula, emphasizing that the model remains under development and recommending legislation to require review after one year of implementation and every three years thereafter. Key feedback themes included:

1. **MLL and Low-Income Weights:** Strong interest in increasing weights and exploring tiered MLL weights; however, current statewide data are insufficient to support tiering. Griffith recommended including MLL in the formula now and developing a plan for data collection to support tiered implementation later.
2. **Vocational Funding:** Broad consensus that vocational weights are too low and require adjustment.
3. **Special Education:** The proposed model is more generous than the current formula, but further study would be needed to determine whether overall special education funding is adequate to meet student needs.

4. **Concentration of Poverty:** Interest in adding a concentrated-poverty factor for high-poverty schools; this will need to be considered within discussions and decisions regarding equalization (both student need and local wealth).

Griffith noted that district-level comparisons of current versus proposed funding are available, but school-level comparisons require substantial additional data collection. He also clarified Delaware's current 98% rule for school-level spending and suggested retaining this requirement in the Commission's recommendations. He highlighted the importance of clear statutory language on cash-out provisions and the need for transparent, regularly updated public data systems.

Griffith concluded by encouraging ongoing questions and feedback, reiterating that no numbers are final and the formula remains "written in pencil."

Following the presentation, Commission members were invited to ask questions and share their perspectives. Discussion followed, facilitated by Sarah Barzee.

Public Comment

The commission heard public comment from Jenny Howard, Kendall Massett, and Erin Brian.

Adjournment

Senator Sturgeon noted that the commission would reconvene on December 8, 2025 from 4:00-6:00 virtually. Marcus Wright moved to adjourn, and David Tull seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anna Sullivan for WestEd

Updated on 11.14.2025