

A blurred background of a classroom with rows of wooden desks and blue chairs. A semi-transparent blue rectangular overlay is centered on the image, containing white and green text.

Public Education Funding Commission

March 16, 2026



Welcome from the Chair



Roll Call



Approval of Meeting Minutes

December 8th

Five Values

1. Adequacy
2. Equity
3. Flexibility with guardrails
4. Transparency
5. Accountability (formerly: connecting student outcomes to funding)

Community Engagement Update

Updates

- Additional Public Engagement Sessions were held in January (Seaford) and February (Red Clay)

Next Steps

- Resources have been shared with PEFC members to support ongoing communication with the public. ***Please leverage these materials in your meetings with stakeholders:***
 - PEFC Communication One-Pager (emailed to members)
 - Public Engagement Presentation (available on website in [English](#), [en español](#), [an kreyòl ayisyen](#))
 - [Recorded Public Engagement Presentation](#) (available on website in [English](#), [en español](#), [an kreyòl ayisyen](#))
 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) ([English](#)) ([en español](#)) ([an kreyòl ayisyen](#))

Property Tax

Mike Griffith

Questions and Discussion



Technical Working Group (TWG) Updates

The TWG met several times in December, January, and February

- **Began discussions on Equalization**
 - Recent activity at the General Assembly highlighted the continued data integrity concerns with the assessment data in New Castle County.
- **Reviewed research on tiering MLL funding**
 - DOE provided research on other state models and possible options to consider for Delaware
- **Began discussions on Hold Harmless & Local funding reforms**
 - Specifics need further discussion and/or refinement but there is consensus on broad concepts for both district and charter reforms

Technical Working Group (TWG) Recommendations

- **Equalization:**

- Because this formula relies heavily on property assessment data, the TWG made the decision to recommend continuing to freeze the formula until these data concerns are resolved.

- **Tiering:**

- The TWG will continue to review options for implementing tiered weights across MLL, low income, and other student populations highlighted in community discussions in Phase 2.

Technical Working Group (TWG) Recommendations (cont.)

- **Hold Harmless:**

- Total amount of state funding will not decrease for any LEA with the introduction of the new hybrid funding model. Hold Harmless provisions will continue until Phase 2 implementation is complete (fully funded)

- **Local Funding Reform:**

- Districts should have the authority to increase operating revenue annually to cover cost increases. Districts would continue to go to voters for approval for local property tax increases, capital costs and other expenses above the annual operating cost increases.
- Additional work needs to be done to develop detailed recommendations related to local funding reform across all LEAs.

Implementation Timeline

August 2026 Preparation

- Implementation authority approved by General Assembly
- Detailed statutory changes are drafted for action in 2027 legislative session
- Local funding reform recommendations
- Training for LEAs & Boards

August 2027 Implementation (Phase 1)

- Focus on Phase I of the Hybrid Funding Model
- Numerous funding appropriations down to three
- Refine first round of weights

August 2028 Implementation (Phase 2)

- Equalization
- Other student groups (e.g., Gifted and Talented)
- Tiering for high need student groups
 - MLL
 - Low income
 - Concentration of poverty

Update on the Legislative Process and Timelines

- **High-Level Legislative Strategy (Gen. Assembly Session Jan – June 2026)**
 - Identifying code changes prompted by PEFC recommendations
 - Assigned legislative drafter to review and confirm code changes, and develop proposed language changes
 - Codify:
 - Intent to implement the hybrid funding model in August 2027 (FY28)
 - Authority to proceed with phase 1 implementation
 - Continuation of PEFC (currently expiring Nov. 2026)
 - Confirm member participation going forward
- **High Level Legislative Strategy (Gen. Assembly Session Jan – June 2027)**
 - Authority to continue with phase 2 implementation
 - Comprehensive code revisions needed to implement phase 1 hybrid funding model

Draft Voting Action: Recommendation 1 – A Hybrid Funding Model

The Commission recommends a multi-year phase-in approach to implement a hybrid funding model that blends elements of the current system with a weighted needs-based approach with weights in the following categories:

- Special Education
- Multi-Lingual Learners
- Low-income
- Career and Technical Education

Draft Voting Action: Recommendation 2 – Hold Harmless

The Commission recommends that LEAs are held harmless from any loss of state funding related to the implementation of the hybrid model until such time that Phase 2 of the formula is fully implemented and funded.

Draft Voting Action: Recommendation 3 - Local Funding Reform

The Commission recommends that in phase one districts should have authority to increase operating revenue annually to cover cost increases.

Districts would continue to have the ability to go to voters for approval of local property tax increases, capital costs, and other expenses above the annual operating increases.

Additionally, the Commission recommends further work in phase two to develop more detailed recommendations related to local funding reform across all LEAs.

Draft Voting Action: Recommendation 4 – Extension of the PEFC

The Commission recommends that the Public Education Funding Commission, established through House Concurrent Resolution 201, is re-established to continue to develop recommendations to implement ongoing improvements to the public education funding system in Delaware.

Draft Voting Action: Recommendation 5 – Equalization

The Commission recommends continuing to freeze the Equalization formula at Fiscal Year 2009 levels.

Additionally, the Commission recommends modernizing the equalization formula in phase two

Next Steps: Recommendations

Next Steps

- Provide any additional feedback by Monday, March 23rd
- Technical Working Group will review and address feedback
- Commission vote on April 27th

Questions and Discussion



Public Comment



Public Comment

- Members of the public are welcome to speak before the PEFC during the scheduled public comment period as noted on the publicly posted meeting agendas. Interested persons should:
 - (1) send their name, the name of the group they represent and the topic of their comment via **email to Anna Sullivan (asulliv@wested.org)**, ideally 7 days in advance of the meeting, to request to have their name put on the public comment list for the upcoming meeting;
 - OR (2) raise their hand during the meeting. Those who register ahead of time will be called on by the facilitator to provide public comment first, followed by those who raise their hand during the meeting.
- In order to provide all members of the public with an equal opportunity to speak before the PEFC, each individual is limited to two minutes, unless otherwise noted at the beginning of the meeting.
- Public comments received by DOE 7 days in advance will be sent to members with advance meeting materials via email. All written public comments will be included with the meeting minutes and publicly posted following each committee meeting.

Next Meeting

April 27, 2026, 4:00-6:00 pm (virtual)

Adjourn

A young man with dark hair and glasses is sitting at a desk in a classroom, looking thoughtful. He is wearing a grey hoodie over a dark t-shirt with a geometric pattern. The background shows other students and classroom posters, all in a blue-tinted, semi-transparent style. A small white horizontal line is positioned above the word "Adjourn".