

A blurred background of a classroom with rows of wooden desks and blue chairs. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangle is overlaid in the center, containing the text.

# Public Education Funding Commission

April 27, 2026



**Welcome from the Chair**



**Roll Call**



# Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 16th

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# Five Values

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

All PEFC materials are publicly available on the PEFC landing page: <https://education.delaware.gov/community/pefc/>

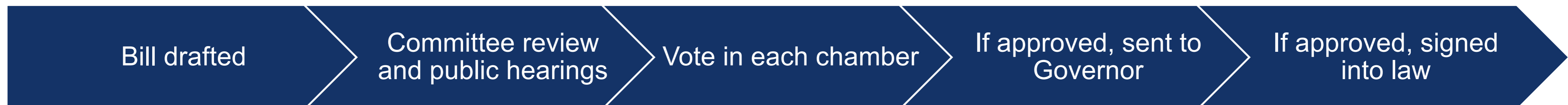
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# Path Forward Following Today's Commission Action

- Following today's voting actions, bills will be filed in the General Assembly.
- Legislation will be introduced by the end of the first week of May (*additional detail on slide #7*).
- In May PEFC commissioners are encouraged to participate in the House and Senate Committee hearings where the PEFC bills will be heard, including giving public comment. Dates will be shared ahead of hearings.

# Update on the Legislative Process and Timelines

- **High-Level Legislative Strategy (153<sup>rd</sup> Gen. Assembly Jan – June 2026)**
  - Identifying code changes prompted by PEFC recommendations
    - Assigned legislative drafter to review and confirm code changes, and develop proposed language changes
  - Drafted SB302, a bill that will enable DDOE to begin work necessary to implement the hybrid funding model in FY28 (systems changes, development of training materials, etc.)
  - Drafted SB303, a bill to make the PEFC permanent
- **High Level Legislative Strategy (154<sup>th</sup> Gen. Assembly Jan – June 2027)**
  - Authority to continue with phase 2 implementation
  - Comprehensive code revisions needed to implement hybrid funding model



# Implementation Timeline

## FY 2027

### July 2026 Implementation (preparation activities)

- Detailed statutory changes are drafted for action in 2027 legislative session
- Systems updates
- Development of communications and training materials for LEAs, Boards, & community members
- Development of an accountability plan

## FY 2028

### July 2027 Implementation (Phase 1)

- Consolidate 32 funding appropriations down to three
- Implement first round of weights

## FY 2029

### July 2028 Implementation (Phase 2)

- Equalization
- Consider weights for other student groups such as Gifted and Talented, foster youth, unhoused students, etc.
- Tiering weights for high need student groups
  - MLL
  - Low income
  - Concentration of poverty

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# Review of Estimated Implementation Costs

- PEFC began work to create a funding model to address known issues. The initial investment for the new hybrid model is expected to cost \$150 to \$200 million above current funding
- The estimated cost of the proposed new model will vary depending on many factors, including:
  - All information is as of April 2026 and will be updated ahead of FY28 implementation
  - Increasing/decreasing in total student enrollment
  - Changes in enrollment to certain student groups (i.e., low-income, MLL, or special education)
  - The working group is still working on funding for CTE students – this may result in changes in overall costs
  - Equalization funding will be changing – the cost of those changes has yet to be determined

**NOTE:** Implementation of the hybrid model is contingent upon available funding

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# Next Steps

## Next Steps

- No May Meeting.
- Legislation will be introduced by the end of the first week of May.
- In May and June PEFC commissioners are encouraged to participate in the House and Senate Committee hearings where the PEFC bills will be heard, including giving public comment. Dates will be shared ahead of hearings.

## Reporting Requirements (HCR 201)

- A report will be drafted on all commission activity through June 30<sup>th</sup> and will be delivered to the GA in July 2026.

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# Commission Action



# 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 initial weights in the following categories:

Opportunity Funding		
Category	Weight	Dollar Amount
Low-income	0.675	\$3,343
Multi-Lingual Learners	0.47	\$2,328
Operational Funding		
Category	Weight	Dollar Amount
Low-income	0.675	\$2,190
Multi-Lingual Learners	0.47	\$1,525
Special Ed. Basic - Pre-K-12	0.48	\$1,558
Special Ed. Intense - Pre-K-12	0.67	\$2,174
Special Ed. Complex - Pre-K-12	1.54	\$4,997
Vocational*	0.2	\$649

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## Voting Action: Recommendation 2 – “Hold Harmless” Provision

The Commission recommends that LEAs do not experience 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. Phase 2 is currently scheduled for July 2028 (FY 2029).

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## Voting Action: Recommendation 3 – Equalization

The Commission recommends continuing to freeze the Equalization formula at Fiscal Year 2009 levels in FY27.

Additionally, the Commission recommends modernizing the equalization formula and implementing the updates by FY28.

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## 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\*.

\*Included in draft bill SB303

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## Voting Action: Recommendation 5 - Local Funding Reform

The commission recommends that the General Assembly consider the local funding implications of implementation of the hybrid model and explore funding reform options.

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# Questions and Discussion

A group of people are seated around a table in what appears to be a meeting or discussion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the foreground, a woman with glasses and a light-colored scarf is looking towards the camera. To her left, a man is looking slightly away. In the background, other people are visible but out of focus. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

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# Public Comment



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# 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.

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## Next Meeting

June 8, 2026, 4:00-6:00 pm (virtual)

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**Adjourn**

A young man with dark hair and glasses is sitting at a desk in a classroom. He is wearing a grey hoodie and looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. In the background, other students are visible, and there are whiteboards on the wall. The entire image has a blue tint.