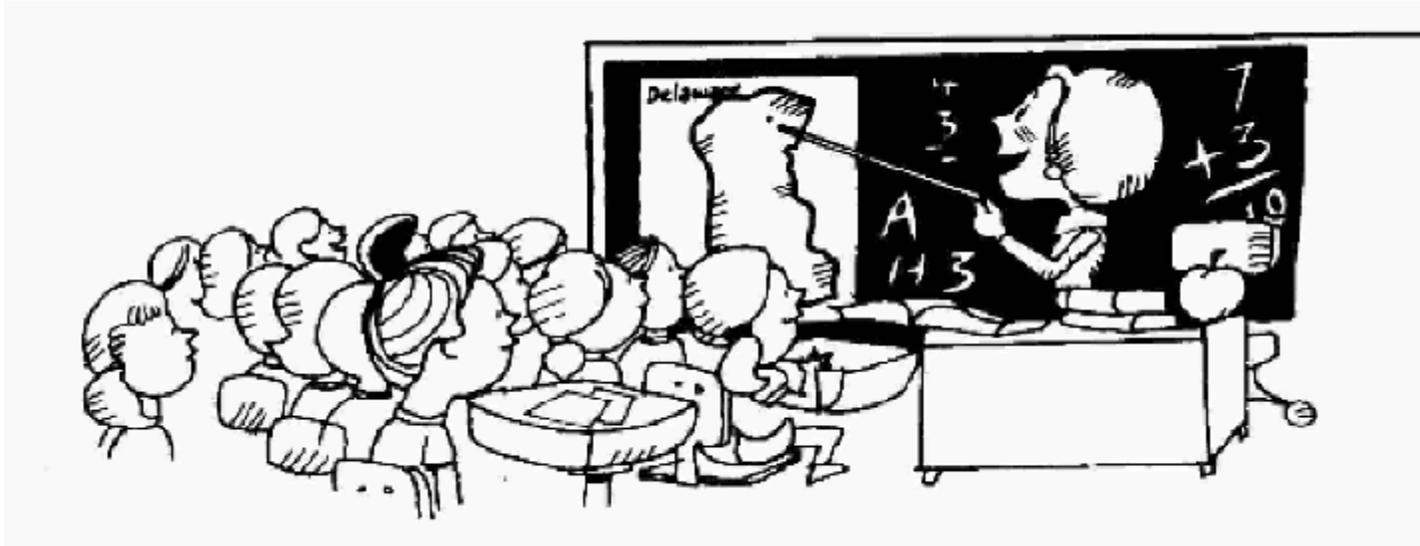


## CHAPTER 8: EDUCATION

**Department of Education (DOE)**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us>

**Public Education**

Education remains one of the most important enterprises in Delaware. The education establishment has undergone dramatic reforms over the past several years, including tougher academic standards, multi-media wiring in every classroom, increased financing providing extra time for students who need it, smaller class sizes, the establishment of charter schools, school choice, the Delaware Student Testing Program, the federal program No Child Left Behind, and accountability at all levels for student achievement. In addition, on September 7, 2006 the governor signed Senate Bill 251, the full-day kindergarten bill authorizing all Delaware school districts to offer the option of full-day kindergarten by the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Any kindergarten-eligible student can attend full-day sessions if the student's parent or guardian selects that option.

Delaware's education system is administered by a cabinet-level Secretary of Education who is appointed by and reports to the governor. The secretary is advised by a seven-member Board of Education appointed by the governor and approved by the state senate.

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/info/sbe>. The secretary and state board determine statewide policies, but local school boards and communities have considerable autonomy in adapting and carrying out educational decisions.

The Department of Education is divided into four branches: Assessments and Accountability; Curriculum and Instructional Improvement; Finance and Administrative Services; and Adult Education and Workforce Development. Each branch is headed by an Associate Secretary and presently there are nearly 240 staff members. This does not include local school district personnel who are hired at the district level. (See Chapter 4: Department of Education.)

[http://www.doe.k12.de.us/files/pdf/dedoe\\_organizchart2006.pdf](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/files/pdf/dedoe_organizchart2006.pdf)

Delaware schools are financed through a combination of state, local and federal dollars. The state assumes the bulk of educational financing. In 2004-2005 the state provided about 64.1 percent of the total K-12 revenues, one of the highest funding percentages in the nation. Local

funding provided about 27.2 percent and federal funds 8.8 percent of the total revenue.

[http://www.doe.k12.de.us/info/reports/edstats/files/05/FINANCES\\_04-05.pdf](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/info/reports/edstats/files/05/FINANCES_04-05.pdf)

All public school teachers must be licensed and certified by the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee (LCCC), one of two standing committees of the Delaware Professional Standards Board created by the Delaware General Assembly in 2000. The Professional Standards Board, in collaboration with the Department of Education, is charged with helping to establish a system of professional development, professional standards, licensure, and certification designed to continually improve the quality of instruction for Delaware's school children. The LCCC reviews current practice in Delaware and other states, analyzes work done previously in areas related to licensure and certification, identifies national and regional trends which impact on these issues, and makes recommendations for improvement.

### **Vision 2015**

<http://www.vision2015delaware.org>

In 2005 a coalition of business, community and education leaders began working on a plan to reform Delaware's schools. Named **Vision 2015**, its statement of mission: ". . . demonstrates an unprecedented commitment by Delaware to address the most urgent issue of our time: securing a high-quality education for every child in the state by 2015. Going forward, all policies and actions must answer the central question: How can we best tailor learning so that each student succeeds? With students at the center, the main changes must occur closest to the student - in schools and classrooms. Its focus is on six main issues:

1. Establish a simple and equitable funding system
2. Set high standards, set a common curriculum
3. Invest in early childhood education
4. Develop and support high-quality teachers
5. Empower principals to lead their schools
6. Encourage innovation and parent involvement, require accountability"

### **Public Schools**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/EduDir/DistAnchor.asp>

Delaware public schools are consolidated into sixteen regular and three vocational-technical school districts. Kent and Sussex Counties each have one vocational-technical school, New Castle County has four.

Kent County: Caesar Rodney, Capital, Lake Forest, Milford, Polytech, Smyrna.

New Castle County: Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Christina, Colonial, Red Clay Consolidated, New Castle County Vocational-Technical (includes Delcastle, Hodgson, Howard, and St. Georges)

Sussex County: Cape Henlopen, Delmar, Indian River, Laurel, Seaford, Sussex Vo-Tech, Woodbridge

Public school students are provided with bus transportation. This service is not extended to private and parochial school students although some individual funding is available upon application.

### **Charter Schools**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/EduDir/CharterStart.asp>

The Delaware law authorizing charter schools was enacted in 1995. Charter schools were established to improve student learning by using innovative teaching and learning methods. A

charter school's program, curriculum and instructional strategies must be aligned with the Delaware Content Standards and state program requirements. A charter high school must also meet all state graduation requirements including driver education. Extra instructional time including summer school must be provided for at risk students.

As of September 2006 the following seventeen charter schools have been established:

Academy of Dover Charter School  
Campus Community School  
Charter School of Wilmington  
Delaware Military Academy  
East Side Charter School  
Family Foundations Academy  
Kuumba Academy Charter School  
Marion T. Academy Charter School  
Maurice J. Moyer Academy  
MOT Charter School  
Newark Charter School  
Odyssey Charter School  
Pencader Business and Finance Charter High School  
Positive Outcomes Charter School  
Providence Creek Academy Charter School  
Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences  
Thomas A. Edison Charter School

#### **School Choice**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/info/schools/choice.shtml>

The Delaware School Enrollment Choice program within the public school system began in the 1996-1997 school year. Its goal was to increase access to educational opportunity for all children throughout the state regardless of where they live. A parent residing in Delaware may enroll his child in any school, providing district criteria for acceptance are met. Each local school district has adopted a policy establishing criteria for acceptance or rejection of applications and has set priorities for acceptance. Each year local school districts establish which schools are open for choice and which schools are not open for choice. This often depends upon enrollment and space available.

#### **Adult Education and Work Force Development**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/services/guide/adulted.shtml>

Adult education is offered through the Department of Education with state and federal funding. Instructional programs are provided for adults (16 years of age and older) who are out of school, enabling them to earn a high school diploma. The James H. Groves High School <http://www.jhgroves.homestead.com/> and Delaware Technical and Community College allow adult students to complete their education and secure Delaware high school diplomas. (See Chapter 4: Department of Education.)

#### **Nonpublic Schools**

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/EduDir/NonPubStart.asp>

The Delaware Code requires all nonpublic schools to register with the Department of Education. This includes independent schools, private and diocesan Catholic schools, other religious

schools and homeschools. Enrollment and attendance information pertaining to pupils enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve in nonpublic schools is collected annually by the Department of Education. Also provided are the name, gender, race, grade, district and type of transportation assistance requested for pupils in grades kindergarten through twelve. Included are counts of school staff.

### **Private Schools**

A private school is a school having any or all of grades kindergarten through twelve, operating under a board of trustees and maintaining a faculty and building which are properly supervised. Delaware requires all nonpublic schools to register with the Department of Education (DOE). Enrollment and attendance information must be provided. These schools are not supervised by the Department of Education.

### **Homeschools**

<http://www.dheaonline.org>.

There are three methods to legally homeschool in Delaware:

Start your own single-family homeschool or multi-family homeschool. Parents are responsible for their own curriculum and materials and must report enrollment and attendance information to the DOE. Those starting a new multi-family homeschool are responsible for reporting enrollment and attendance information for all families that enroll in the school.

Enroll in an existing and registered multi-family homeschool. By choosing this method one need not fill out any forms with the Department of Education. The multi-family homeschool liaison submits enrollment and attendance information to the DOE.

Homeschool your own children in your own home coordinated with the local school district. Most districts are no longer participating in this option.

## Higher Education: Delaware Colleges and Universities

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/programs/dhec/dcu.shtml>



Gore Hall – Newest building on the University of Delaware Mall – a gift from the Gore family.

**Beebe School of Nursing** is located in Lewes and offers courses leading to a diploma in nursing. Under an agreement with Wilmington College, the student is eligible for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with one additional year of study.

<http://www.beebemed.org/bbnursing/html/indexb.php>

**Delaware College of Art and Design** offers a two-year associate degree in partnership with the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Washington DC and the Pratt Institute, New York City. A non-profit institution, it is supported by the City of Wilmington and Delaware's business and civic communities.

<http://www.dcad.edu/>

**Delaware Institute for Dental Education and Research (DIDER)** supports the general practice residency program at Christiana Care Health System. This is considered important because of the relatively unique requirement in the Delaware dental code that requires one year of general practice residency training as a condition of licensure to practice dentistry in Delaware. Now administrated by the Delaware Health Care Commission, among other things DIDER provides incentives for qualified personnel in the dental professions to practice in Delaware.

<http://dhs.delaware.gov/information/dider.shtml>

**Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER)** was created in 1969 as an alternative to a state-supported medical school. Through DIMER, Jefferson Medical College functions as Delaware's medical school. Delaware provides payment to Jefferson Medical College to reserve at least 20 admissions each year for Delaware residents. In addition, DIMER has a relationship with the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), Philadelphia, PA. Through that program PCOM reserves at least 5 admissions each year for Delaware

residents. Eligible applicants must be legal residents of the state of Delaware and meet the premedical academic requirements of Jefferson Medical College. Bachelor's degrees from any accredited college or university in the United States are accepted.

<http://dhss.delaware.gov/information/dimer.shtml>

**Delaware State University** is a fully accredited, comprehensive university with a main campus in Dover and two satellite sites in Wilmington and Georgetown. The university offers 66 undergraduate degrees, 16 graduate degrees, and two doctoral degrees. Degree options include the disciplines of mathematics, natural and social sciences, education, airway sciences, visual and performing arts, management, accounting and finance, agriculture, natural resources, nursing, and others. <http://www.desu.edu/>

**Delaware Technical and Community College** provides academic, technical, continuing education, and industrial training opportunities to every resident of Delaware at four campuses – Stanton, Wilmington, Terry (Dover) and Owens (Georgetown). A two-year Associate in Applied Science degree is granted upon successful completion of specific curriculum requirements. In addition, diploma and certificate programs are offered in a variety of technical areas at each campus. <http://www.dtcc.edu/>

**Goldey-Beacom College**, located in suburban Wilmington (Pike Creek Valley), is a private, coeducational college devoted solely to the study of business. Associate, bachelor and masters degrees are offered for day, evening and part-time students. <http://gbc.edu/>

**Southern Illinois University Carbondale** offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology at the Dover, DE Airforce Base and at seven other bases throughout the country. The industrial technology major has as its objective the training of qualified personnel who can develop and direct the production and distribution of products and services. Students must eventually take 30 credits at the main campus in Carbondale to receive the degree.

<http://heera.engr.siu.edu/outreach/doverafb/Directions.htm>

**Springfield College School of Human Services**, located in Wilmington, was chosen to be the first campus in an educational collaboration between Springfield College (MA) and the YMCA, in partnership with the city of Wilmington and the state of Delaware. The School of Human Services offers a Bachelor of Science degree in such areas as: Alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment; Mental health and elder care; Social and welfare reform; Youth work and early childhood development; Law enforcement, corrections and probation.

<http://www.spfldcol.edu/homepage/dept.nsf/shs>

**The University of Delaware**, a state-assisted, privately controlled institution, is located in Newark with satellite programs in Dover, Georgetown and Wilmington. A major university, it enrolls about 16,000 undergraduates and 3,000 graduate students annually. In cooperation with Delaware Technical & Community College (DTCC), the university offers qualified applicants the opportunity to pursue a University of Delaware Associate in Arts (AA) degree by taking UD courses at the UD Academic Centers on the campuses of Delaware Technical & Community College in Wilmington, Dover, and Georgetown. In Wilmington the UD Downtown Center for Performance Excellence offers professional development certificates and seminars. In Georgetown the new Carvel Research and Education Center fosters research in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, including nutrient-management concerns and animal diseases. In Lewes, the UD **College of Marine and Earth Studies (CMES) maintains a research station where students may pursue a master of science or doctorate in marine studies.** The

Academy of Lifelong Learning in Wilmington and the Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning in Lewes are University of Delaware membership organizations for adults 50 and over to exchange ideas, take classes, teach, and travel in the company of other retirement age individuals. <http://www.udel.edu/>

**Wesley College** is a fully-accredited, independent liberal arts and sciences college affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Located in the historic district of Newark, it offers bachelors and masters degrees in arts and sciences, business, health sciences, education and fine arts. <http://www.wesley.edu/>

**Widener University School of Law**, located in north Wilmington, offers full and part time programs leading to the Juris Doctor degree. In addition, Widener's Legal Education Institute (LEI) offers a variety of American Bar Association approved degree or certificate programs in Paralegal Studies and Legal Nurse Consulting. <http://www.law.widener.edu/>

**Wilmington University**, located in New Castle, is a private, non-sectarian school that offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs in a variety of career areas, serving traditional high school graduates as well as non-traditional adult students in need of flexible scheduling. As an institution with admissions policies that provide access for all, it offers opportunity for higher education to students of varying ages, interests, and aspirations. Additional locations in Delaware include the Graduate Center on Reed's Way (also in New Castle), Dover, Dover Air Force Base, Georgetown and Rehoboth Beach. Branches include Burlington, Cumberland and Salem in New Jersey. The college generally serves commuter students and does not provide student housing facilities. <http://www.wilmu.edu>