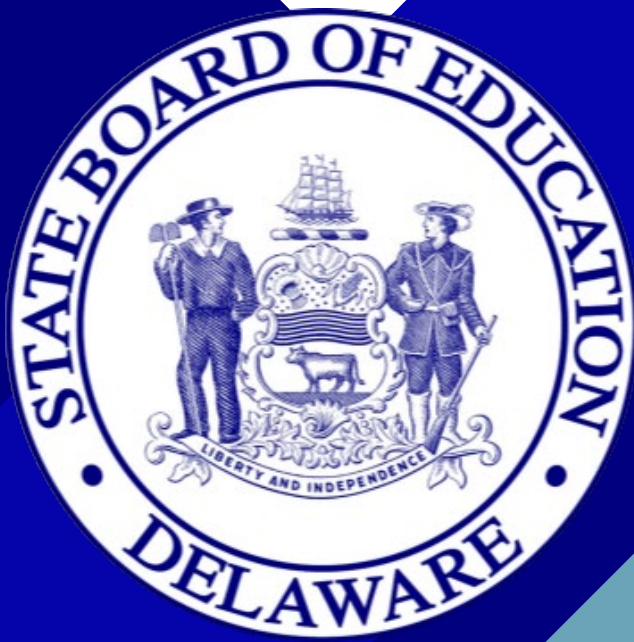


FY25 ANNUAL REPORT



DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

VISION, MISSION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES, AND PRIORITIES OF THE DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In October 2019, the State Board of Education approved its strategic plan, including vision, mission, guiding principles, and priorities. The Board reaffirmed these in May 2023.

Vision

All Delaware students are engaged in learning that provides a foundation for success, preparing them to transition into postsecondary education and careers, engage with their communities, and continue to learn throughout their lives.

Mission

In collaboration with community stakeholders, the Delaware State Board of Education provides voice and leadership for Delaware citizens to ensure that the education system meets the needs of each Delaware student.



From Left to Right (Top Row: Rev. Provey Powell, Mr. Sage Sawhney, Mr. James Simmons; Middle Row: Dr. Meredith Griffin, President Shawn Brittingham; Bottom Row: Dr. Megan Szabo, Secretary Cindy Marten, Dr. Nisha Lodhavia, Vice President Deborah Stevens)

The Delaware State Board of Education is pleased to present its 2024-25 Annual Report. This report highlights the Board's role in supporting and improving education for Delaware's more than 142,000 public school students in 19 districts and 24 charter schools.

The State Board of Education has a wide variety of roles and responsibilities, including:

- **Advancing Education Policies and Systems**
 - Approving regulations governing 100+ topics, including approval of content standards, assessments, graduation requirements, educator licensure and certification, and many others;
 - Serving as the CTE Eligible Agency for the State Perkins Plan;
 - Approving charter school authorizations—new, major modifications, renewals, and formal review.
- **Providing Strategic Oversight and Advocacy**
 - Providing the breadth and viewpoint of a citizen's board;
 - Providing the Secretary of Education with advice in the development of policy and new initiatives.
- **Resolving Disputes and Controversies**
 - Resolving certain disputes and controversies of the state education system, including school district boundaries, rules/regulations of local boards and student suspensions/expulsions for disciplinary reasons.

While much of the Board's monthly meeting time is spent performing its statutory responsibilities such as reviewing and approving rules and regulations, the Board also deals with a wide range of policy issues.

Guiding Principles

- **Equitable Opportunities:** Support high-quality educational opportunities for all students that reduce disproportionate student outcomes by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic conditions, and residence.
- **Student-Focused Education:** Advocate for the development of the whole child, including strong academic, social-emotional, and physical health and safety practices that provide a rigorous, relevant, and relationship-based education.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Engage and collaborate with the community and partners to enrich education policymaking with diverse perspectives that represent Delaware's citizens.
- **Data-informed Decision-making:** Utilize national, state, and local research and data to inform decisions.

State Board of Education Priority Areas

The State Board recognizes the importance of collaboration with other agencies and organizations to attain these goals. Priorities are not listed in order of importance.

- **Student Well Being:** Strengthen state policy and practice to foster learning environments that support health, safety, and well-being.
- **Foundational Skills and Knowledge:** Leverage partnerships among early learning, K-12, and higher education to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge that contribute to long term academic success.
- **College and Career Readiness and Success:** Build and strengthen state policy and practice to support students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue careers and continuing education.
- **Educator Preparation and Development:** Strengthen state policy and practice to recruit, retain, and develop teachers and school leaders to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to be successful.
- **Partnerships and Innovation in Student Learning:** Engage stakeholders and members of the public, including students, to inform policy and practice. Promote school structures, systems, and initiatives that are innovative and can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community.



From the SBE Student Forum at Polytech HS, 4/10/25

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As Delaware schools have wrapped up another year, all stakeholders in the Delaware educational system remain positive for the future. Delaware is dedicated to becoming the best state in the country with educational opportunities in place for every student. We will not take a step back or stand still, however; we will continue to move forward. Our goal remains the same: supplying a safe, high quality, fair, and equitable education for all students. The challenges in Delaware are real and impact everyone involved in the educational arena – examples include increases in stress, societal pressures, emotional trauma, and diverse, highly-qualified teacher recruitment and retention. With all of the challenges facing education today, they also create great opportunities to improve. Change is inevitable, progress is optional; we continue to choose progress.

The Delaware State Board of Education (SBE) welcomed new member Mr. James Simmons who was appointed by Governor Carney in December 2024, recognized retiring Board Member Harvey Kenton who was appointed by Governor Carney and served from January 2024-January 2025, and welcomed its new Executive Secretary, Secretary of Education Cindy Marten in February 2025. The Board also recognized the service of Student Member Sage Sawhney who graduated in June 2025 from Caesar Rodney High School. Tyler Gunter from MOT Charter School was appointed by Governor Meyer in June 2025. The Delaware State Board is ready to continue to provide voice and leadership for Delaware's citizens.

The Delaware State Board of Education is committed to each student, parent, and educator to ensure that all have access to a safe, fair, and equitable education. We will work with all constituents involved in education to prepare our students for the 21st Century. The goal is to equip our students with confidence and competence for college, career, and civic readiness, as they will be our leaders of the future.

This past year the SBE accomplished many things, detailed throughout this report, including: approval of 36 regulations, several charter school authorizations, the continued expansion of communication and public engagement, and further work on early literacy.

In closing, the SBE is committed to improving the education in all Delaware schools as we charge forward. Let us look at what is right in education instead of what is wrong. Please feel free to communicate with the Delaware SBE, as we are here to serve. Delaware.SBE@sbe.k12.de.us

Thank you,



Shawn B. Brittingham

FY25 HIGHLIGHTS

This report outlines the work accomplished by the State Board of Education and key efforts from FY24 to FY25. Highlights include:

- **Approved 39 new or amended regulations**, including topics such as updates to educator licensure and certification requirements, and educator scholarships programs, among others.
- **Approved 5 charter school renewals and 1 new charter school.**
- **Utilized the State Board hearing and appeals process** for two appeals.
- **Continued efforts to engage the public** via use of hybrid meeting format, clear opportunities for verbal public comment, opportunities to provide written comment to be considered by the Board, and by holding student education forums.
- **Continued communications via:**
 - **Updated State Board webpages** on DDOE website
 - **Social media posting** – including regular posts about upcoming meetings and regulations available for public comment, and other pertinent information.

The Board has continued to focus on these areas in FY25:

- Teacher retention and workplace climate
- Expanding communications and engagement with members of the public - especially high school students - regarding education issues aligned with the Board's statutory responsibilities
- Utilizing educational data and research to inform Board decision-making through presentations from DDOE Staff and local districts/charters
- Championing efforts toward boosting literacy achievement

In FY26 and beyond, the Board will concentrate on the following priorities:

- Literacy/Numeracy
- Early Childhood Education
- College & Career Readiness/Career & Technical Education
- Student Behavior & School Climate
- Supporting a diverse, high-quality educator workforce

FY25 DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

 Shawn Brittingham President	 Deb Stevens Vice President	 Meredith Griffin, Jr. Member
 Nisha Lodhavia Member	 Provey Powell, Jr. Member	 James Simmons Member
 Megan Szabo Educator Member Appointed August 2022	 Sage Sawhney Student Member Appointed June 2024	 Harvey Kenton, Jr. Member Retired January 2025
 The Hon. Cindy Marten Secretary of Education SBE Executive Secretary Confirmed February 2025	The State Board of Education consists of nine members. Seven voting members who are appointed by the Governor, approved by the Senate. Two non-voting members appointed by the Governor. Background information on each member can be found here.	 The Hon. Mark Holodick Secretary of Education SBE Executive Secretary Through January 2025

BOARD COMPOSITION AND ACTIVITIES (FY25)

Shawn Brittingham, President, serves at the pleasure of the Governor (appointed July 2022)

P-20 Council, Co-chair

University of Delaware Board of Trustees, member

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

Adult Basic Education Task Force, ex-officio

Vision Coalition 2035 Steering Committee, member

Deborah Stevens, appointed July 2022, Vice President, term expires 2028

DPAS II Advisory Committee, member

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

Media Literacy Content Standards review committee, member

NASBE Nominations Committee Northeast Region Representative

Delaware Early Literacy Advisory Group, member

Meredith Griffin, Jr., appointed January 2024, term expires January 2030

National Association of State Boards of Education Public Education Positions Committee,

NASBE Public Education Positions Committee, member

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

Redding Consortium Community Engagement Subcommittee, ex-officio

Harvey Kenton, Jr., appointed January 2024, retired January 2025

National Association of State Boards of Education Governmental Affairs Committee, member

H. Fletcher Brown Scholarship Selection Committee, Member

Nisha Lodhavia, appointed June 2024, term expires June 2030

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

Equalization Committee, member

NASBE Annual Conference Planning Committee

USDOE Region 3 Comprehensive Center Advisory Board

Provey Powell, Jr., term expires 2025

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

H. Fletcher Brown Scholarship Selection Committee, member

James Simmons III, term expires 2031

Redding Consortium Operational Impacts Subcommittee, ex-officio

Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Selection Committee, member

Megan Szabo, re-appointed August 2024, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

Sage Sawhney, appointed June 2024, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: A YEAR IN REVIEW (JULY 2024- JUNE 2025)

One of the primary functions of the State Board includes providing advice to the Secretary of Education on policies, rules, and regulations in partnership with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and the Professional Standards Board (PSB).

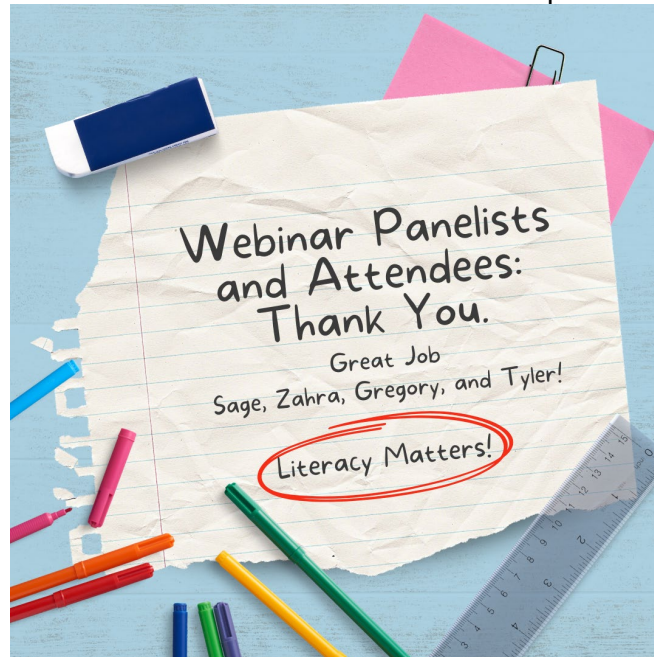
Priority: Student Well Being: Strengthen state policy and practice to foster learning environments that support health, safety, and well-being.

- Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of new policy or amendments to the following DDOE-regulations:
 - Regulation 922 – Children with Disabilities Subpart A, Purposes and Definitions (October 2024 and February 2025)
 - Regulation 923 – Children with Disabilities Subpart B, General Duties and Eligibility of Agencies (October 2024 and February 2025)
 - Regulation 925 – Children with Disabilities Subpart D, Evaluations, Eligibility Determination, Individualized Education Programs (October 2024 and February 2025)
- Prior to August 2024 the SBE approved a number of Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) regulations; Governor Carney signed [Senate Bill 260](#) into law on August 2nd, removing the State Board of Education from the DIAA regulations process.
- Discussed mental wellness with 8th grade students at Maurice Pritchett Sr. Academy in November 2024 co-hosted by student SBE Member Sage Sawhney; also at Polytech HS in April 2025 and Woodbridge HS in May 2025.
- Recognized the State student winners of the School Bus Safety Poster Contest (October 2024)



Priority: Foundational Skills and Knowledge: Leverage partnerships among early learning, K-12, and higher education to provide students with foundational skills and knowledge that contribute to long term academic success.

- Dr. April McCrae, Director of the Office of Assessment and Accountability, and Education Associate Dusty Shockley provided updates on [Regulation 101 – State Assessment System](#), which was approved by the Board in July 2024.
- In September 2024 Dr. Monica Gant presented student achievement data for early literacy assessments and highlighted strategic work across the State to increase student proficiency.
- In February 2025, the Board received details about the National Assessment of Educational Progress ([NAEP](#)) [results for Delaware students from the 2024 Mathematics and Reading Assessments](#) from Dr. McCrae.
- The Board approved the Delaware revision of the exit criteria for English-learner students taking the [WIDA ACCESS-ALT](#) from the previous achievement level of A3 to the new achievement level of P3 in June 2025.
- Approval of amendments to the following DDOE regulation:
 - [Regulation 275 – Charter Schools \(November 2024\)](#)
- The Board co-hosted a webinar on youth literacy along with PMG Consulting on September 30, 2024. Four high school students served on the discussion panel.



- At its May 2025 Strategic Planning Meeting, the Board affirmed supporting Literacy and Numeracy as one of its priorities for FY26.
- Delaware SBE remains active in the Early Childhood Education Network of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Vice President Stevens and Executive Director Smith attended a 2-day workshop in June 2025 in Washington D.C., which highlighted a visit to EduCare.

Priority: College and Career Readiness and Success: Build and strengthen state policy and practice to support students in gaining the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to pursue careers and continuing education.

- The Board met with Delaware students throughout the State to spotlight student voice and hear about this priority from their perspectives.
- Student Member Sage Sawhney participated on a panel at the Vision Coalition 2035 Plan launch event.



- The Board plans to focus more on College & Career Readiness/Career & Technical Education in FY26.

Priority: Educator Preparation and Development: Strengthen state policy and practice to recruit, retain, and develop teachers and school leaders to ensure they have the knowledge, skills, and support needed to be successful.

- In March 2025, the Board received an update on “[Developing Leaders: Advancing Delaware’s Educator Pipeline](#)” by Dr. Michael Saylor, Director, Educator Excellence, and Brandie Foxx, Education Associate, School Leadership at DDOE.
- Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - [Regulation 1211 – Career-Based Scholarship Program \(April, May 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1216 Educator Support Scholarship Program \(April, May 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1217 - Mental Health Services Scholarship \(April, May 2025\)](#)
 - Approval of amendments to the following Professional Standards Board (PSB) regulations:
 - [Regulation 1501 – Salary Supplements for Educators \(June 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1559 – Skilled and Technical Sciences Teacher \(June 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1582 – School Nurse \(June 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1594 – Special Education Director \(June 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1571 – Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities \(April 2025\)](#)
 - [Regulation 1573 – Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Intellectual Abilities \(April 2025\)](#)

- Regulation 1572 – Teacher of Students Who Are Gifted Or Talented (February 2025)
- Regulation 1554 – Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher (February 2025)
- Regulation 1517 – Paraeducator Permit (February 2025)
- Regulation 1565 - World Language Teacher (December 2024)
- Regulation 1521 - Elementary Teacher (December 2024)
- Regulation 1519 - Multiple Measures for Demonstrating Content Knowledge (December 2024)
- Regulation 1550 - Agriscience Teacher (November 2024)
- Regulation 1544 - Secondary Social Studies Teacher (November 2024)
- Regulation 1543 - Secondary Science Teacher (November 2024)
- Regulation 1542 - Secondary Mathematics Teacher (November 2024)
- Regulation 1540 - Secondary English Language Arts Teacher (November 2024)
- Regulation 1542 - Secondary Mathematics Teacher (October 2024)
- Regulation 1540 - Secondary English Language Arts Teacher (October 2024)
- Regulation 1594 - Special Education Director (October 2024)
- Regulation 1593 - Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent (October 2024)
- Regulation 1592 - Certified Central Office Personnel (October 2024)
- Regulation 1591 - Principal and Assistant Principal (October 2024)
- Regulation 1598 - Delaware Professional Development Standards (August 2024)
- Regulation 1511 - Continuing License (August 2024)
- Regulation 1503 - Comprehensive Educator Induction Programs (August 2024)
- Regulation 1564 - Physical Education Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1557 - Technology and Engineering Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1551 - Business, Finance, or Marketing Education Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1539 - Health Education Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1534 - Middle Level Social Studies Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1533 - Middle Level Science Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1532 - Middle Level Mathematics Teacher (August 2024)
- Regulation 1531 - Middle Level Language Arts Teacher (August 2024)

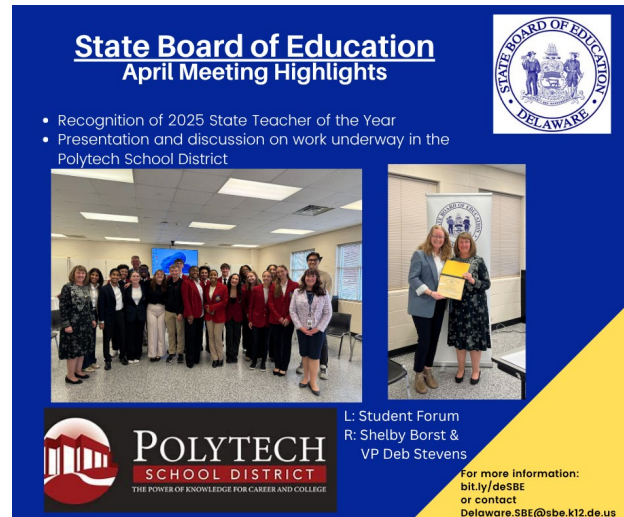
- In April 2025, the Board hosted the 2025 Delaware State Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Shelby Borst.



Shelby Borst (L), Vice President Deb Stevens (R)

Priority: Partnerships and Innovation in Student Learning: Promote school structures, systems, and initiatives that are innovative and can adapt to meet the evolving needs of the student population and community.

- Resuming in September 2021, the Board continued the rotation of its regular monthly meetings throughout the State. Hosts were invited to provide a presentation regarding innovative work underway in the district, especially around early literacy initiatives. The Board was welcomed by:



- Academy of Dover Charter School, September 2024
 - Maurice Pritchett Sr. Academy, November 2024
 - Polytech School District, April 2025
 - Woodbridge School District, May 2025
- The State Board of Education partners with the Secretary of Education on actions related to charter schools. The Board invited DDOE's Charter School Office to participate in regular conversations during meetings, including discussion regarding school operations, enrollment updates, and highlights of student successes. A Board member serves on the Charter School Accountability Committee in an ex-officio capacity. Throughout the year, the following actions were taken:
 - Renewal of Charter School of New Castle: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for the Charter School of New Castle for five years with two conditions. (December 2024)
 - Renewal of EastSide Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for EastSide Charter School for five years. (December 2024)
 - Renewal of Gateway Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Gateway Charter School for five years with one condition. (December 2024)
 - Renewal of Las Americas ASPIRA Academy Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Las Americas ASPIRA Academy Charter School for five years. (December 2024)
 - Renewal of Odyssey Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Odyssey Charter School for five years with one condition (December 2024)

- Application of ASPIRA – Georgetown Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary to approve the new charter school application of ASPIRA – Georgetown Charter School without condition. (January 2024)
 - Redding Consortium for Educational Equity:
 - In January 2025, State Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha presented updates on the Redding Consortium, highlighting an overview of the consortium's interim plan and the three subcommittees: operational impact, fiscal impact, and community engagement. Board Members requested that an SBE representative be added to those committees in a non-voting capacity and Dr. Griffin and Mr. Simmons began participation in the Spring of 2025.
 - Board Member Dr. Lodhavia joined in the celebration of six awardees and six finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science & Mathematics Teaching (PAEMST), the highest recognition that K-12 STEM teachers can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. The Board presented these educators with certificates. (May 2025)
 - President Biden named six Delaware teachers recipients of the 2021 – 2023 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST):
2021: Michael Reitemeyer, Mount Pleasant High School, Brandywine School District (mathematics) and Brian Heeney, Delcastle Technical High School, New Castle County Vocational Technical School District (science)
2022: Jason Orlen, East Millsboro Elementary School, Indian River School District (mathematics) and Maria Cobb, Mount Pleasant Elementary School, Brandywine School District (science)
2023: Brittney Stewart, Caesar Rodney High School, Caesar Rodney School District (mathematics) and Michael Doody, formerly of William Penn High School, Colonial School District (science)
- Six were named for FY25 finalists:
David Eroh, Brandywine High School, Science, Brandywine School District
Dasianee Gavin, Middle School of Excellence, Science, Capital School District
Jacalyn Jenkins, Smyrna Middle School, Mathematics, Smyrna School District
Sarah Leonard, Louis L. Redding Middle School, Science, Appoquinimink School District
Katie Menhart, Smyrna High School, Mathematics, Smyrna School District
Shellee Wong, Odessa High School, Mathematics, Appoquinimink School District



(L to R: Nisha Lodhavia, Sarah Leonard, Monica Gant)

State Board Operations and External Engagement

- The State Board fulfilled its statutory responsibilities regarding a school district boundary dispute (March 2025) and one administrator appeal (June 2025)
- A new part-time Administrative Assistant was hired in July 2024 and left for a full-time position in April 2025. The vacancy was posted, and a successful candidate was hired in May 2025 but became vacant again in June.
- The Board continues to utilize Facebook and Instagram to share information.
- Student Member Sage Sawhney assisted in continuing outreach and engagement efforts for high school students, and Vice President Deb Stevens, Board Member Nisha Lodhavia and Executive Director Kathleen Smith participated alongside him. The first was a statewide virtual forum on youth literacy held in September 2024, followed by in-person forums at Maurice Pritchett Sr. Academy in November, Polytech High School in April, and at Woodbridge High School in May. Students discussed topics of mental wellness, college and career preparation, and student voice and empowerment.
- President Brittingham provided remarks at the State Teacher of the Year Dinner in October 2024, the Education Support Professional of the Year Dinner in December 2024, the Secretary Scholars Dinner in April 2025, and the Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Dinner in May 2025.
- Board Members continued to participate in several school visits throughout the year.
- The Delaware SBE continues to be active in the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Vice President Stevens, Dr. Lodhavia, and Ms. Smith attended the National Conference in Louisville, KY in October 2024 and visited Waggener High School. (cohort shown below)



- Vice President Stevens and Board Member Jim Simmons spoke on a panel at the University of Delaware's Partnership for Public Education event in January 2025:



Ms. Stevens, second from left; Mr. Simmons, fifth from left.

- Ms. Stevens and Ms. Smith attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at Maurice Pritchett Sr. Academy in August 2024 and visited with past Member Wali Rushdan II:





State Board of Education Meetings

The Board's regular monthly meetings are open to the public and are usually scheduled for the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 5:00 p.m. The Board rotates locations of regular meetings among Delaware's three counties and provides an opportunity for members of the public to join virtually. The schedule for State Board of Education meetings can be [found here](#).

State Board of Education Documents

Minutes and recordings from the State Board of Education's meetings may be accessed through the [Department of Education's website](#). You may also access the State Board's Procedures Manual, membership information, and past reports on the website. Hard copies of these documents may be obtained by contacting the State Board of Education office. Meeting agendas and materials may be accessed on the [State Board of Education's eboard site](#).

Contact Information

You may contact the Delaware State Board of Education through Mr. Shawn Brittingham, President of the State Board of Education, Delaware.sbe@sbe.k12.de.us, or through Ms. Kathleen Smith, Executive Director of the State Board of Education at (302) 735-4010 or kathleen.smith@sbe.k12.de.us.

The FY25 Annual Report can also be found on the State Board of Education's website at <http://bit.ly/deSBE>