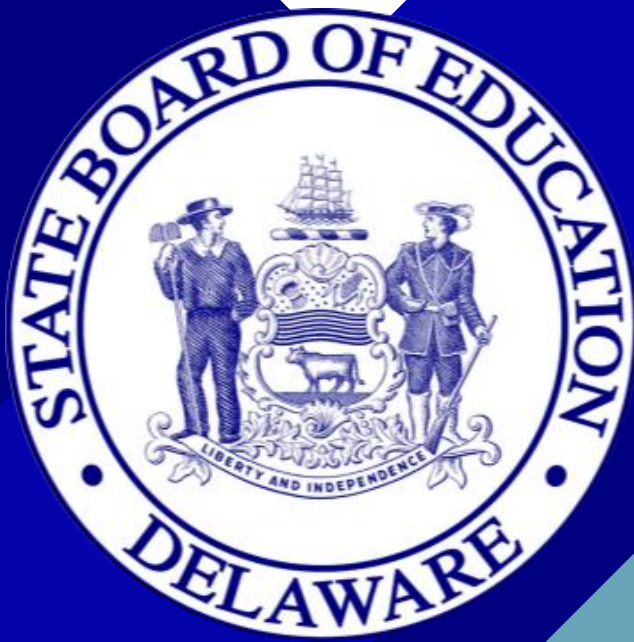


FY24 ANNUAL REPORT



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.



The Delaware State Board of Education is pleased to present its 2023-24 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 23 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, new initiatives.
- **Resolving Disputes and Controversies**
 - Resolving 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.

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.

- # Thank you, Students!



We are grateful for your input at the November 29 Forum. Stay tuned for more opportunities!



3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As Delaware schools came to a close for the year, all stakeholders in the Delaware educational system remain positive for the future. Delaware is dedicated to becoming the best of the best 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 teacher recruitment and retention. With all of the challenges facing education, it also creates great opportunities to improve. Change is inevitable, progress is optional; we choose progress.

The Delaware State Board of Education (SBE) recognized Board Members Wali Rushdan, II and Candice Fifer, both of whom were appointed by Governor Carney and served from 2018-2024. Their service and contributions were invaluable to help elevate Delaware education. The Board also recognized the service of Student Member Gus Musika who graduated in June 2024 from Cape Henlopen High School. In January the Governor appointed Dr. Meredith Griffin and Mr. Harvey Kenton to serve on the SBE. Dr. Nisha Lodhavia was appointed by the Governor in June 2024. These leaders will bring multiple perspectives to the Board as we look to the future. Sage Sawhney from Caesar Rodney High School was appointed by the Governor in June 2024. 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

FY24 HIGHLIGHTS

This report outlines the work accomplished by the State Board of Education and key improvements from FY23 to FY24. Highlights include:

- **Approved 36 new or amended regulations**, including topics such as updates to interscholastic athletics policies, educator licensure and certification requirements, and educator scholarships programs, among others.
- **Approved 6 charter school renewals.**
- **Utilized the State Board hearing and appeals process** for four appeals.
- **Continued efforts to increase engagement of 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 holding student education forums
- **Improved 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.
- **Engaged with a policy fellow from the University of Delaware**
 - Fall 2023: Ms. Browyn Sherman continued research on educator assessments addressing the science of reading, and testing and certification requirements in other states, student enrollment at Delaware's Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) and statistics for Educator Preparation Programs; and various other research requests from Board Members.

The Board has continued to focus on these areas in FY24:

- 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
- Championing efforts toward boosting literacy achievement

FY24 DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP



Shawn Brittingham
President
Appointed July 2022



Deb Stevens
Vice President
Elected July 2023



Candice Fifer, Member
Term Ended June 2024



Meredith Griffin, Jr.
Member



Harvey Kenton, Jr.
Member



Provey Powell, Jr.
Member



Wali Rushdan II, Member
Term ended June 2024



Megan Szabo
Educator Member
Appointed August 2022



Gus Musika
Student Member
Appointed June 2023



Secretary of Education
SBE Executive Secretary

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](#).



BOARD COMPOSITION AND ACTIVITIES (FY24)

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 (ex-officio)

Delaware School Boards Association Board of Directors, member (non-voting)

Adult Basic Education Task Force, member

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

Candice Fifer, term expires 2024

Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, member

Educational Support Professional of the Year Selection Committee, member

Provey Powell, Jr., term expires 2025

Wali W. Rushdan II, term expires 2024

Equalization Committee, member

Delaware Early Literacy Advisory Group, member

Deborah Stevens, term expires 2028

DPAS II Advisory Committee, member

Charter School Accountability Committee, member (non-voting)

SB195 Media Literacy Working Group, member

Student Improvement Component Task Force, member

Pre-K-3 Literacy Plan Review Committee, member

NASBE Annual Meeting Delegate

NASBE Nominating Committee, Northeast Representative

Megan Szabo, appointed August 2022, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

Gus Musika, appointed June 2023, serves at the pleasure of the Governor

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

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

Harvey Kenton, Jr., appointed January 2024, term expires January 2030

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

H. Fletcher Brown Scholarship Selection Committee, Member

DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: A YEAR IN REVIEW (JULY 2023- JUNE 2024)

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), the Professional Standards Board (PSB), and the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA).

Goal 1: 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 DIAA regulations:
 - Regulation 1008 - DIAA Junior High and Middle School Interscholastic Athletics (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1028 - Student Athlete Eligibility: Enrollment and Attendance (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1029 - Student Athlete Eligibility: Transfers (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1009 - DIAA High School Interscholastic Athletics (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1035 - In-Season Athletic Activities and Contact (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1043 - Officials (July 2023 and June 2024)
 - Regulation 1040 – Out-Of-Season and Summer Athletic Activities and Contact (March 2024)
 - Regulation 1034 DIAA Health and Safety Requirements (December 2023)
- Discussed mental wellness with high school students in a statewide online forum co-hosted by student SBE Member Gus Musika November 2023; and in February 2024 at Middletown High School in Appoquinimink and in March 2024 at Seaford High School.
- Recognized the student winners of the School Bus Safety Poster Contest (October 2023)
- Approved the Delaware Driver Education Standards and the Media Literacy Content Standards (September 2023)

Goal 2: 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.

- Ms. Theresa Bennett, Director of Assessment and Accountability, DDOE, presented information about state level student assessment scores for ELA and Math. Ms. Kathy Kelly, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development, presented information on state literacy initiatives. Discussion centered on the impact on the outcomes of student achievement by educator preparation programs, recruitment and retention of teachers, and of professional learning and coaching on high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). (November 2023)
- Ms. Theresa Bennett provided information at the October 2023 meeting on the development of the Social Studies Assessment Performance Levels (November 2023).

- The Board joined in the celebration of the Delaware Schools Recognized for Student Success in each county, where each school was presented with a banner:
 - At the February 2024 meeting Secretary Holodick, the SBE, and the DDOE recognized the following New Castle County Schools: Claymont Elementary School in the Brandywine School District for Exceptional Student Performance; Brookside Elementary School in the Christina School District for Serving Special Populations and Wilson Elementary School in the Christina School District for Closing the Achievement Gap; and Eisenberg Elementary School in the Colonial School District for Serving Special Populations.
 - At the March 2024 meeting Deputy Secretary Scott, the SBE, and the DDOE recognized the following Sussex County Schools: Showell Elementary School in the Indian River School District for Exceptional Student Performance; Milton Elementary School in the Cape Henlopen School District, North Georgetown Elementary School in the Indian River School District, Phillis Wheatley Elementary in the Woodbridge School District and Seaford Central Elementary in the Seaford School District for Serving Special Populations; Blades Elementary School in the Seaford School District, Rehoboth Elementary School in the Cape Henlopen School District, and Woodbridge Early Childhood Education Center in the Woodbridge School District for Continued Excellence; and West Seaford Elementary School in the Seaford School District for National ESEA Distinguished School for Excellence in Serving Special Populations.
 - At the April 2024 meeting Secretary Mark Holodick, the SBE, and the DDOE recognized the following Kent County Schools: Lake Forest East Elementary School in the Lake Forest School District for Exceptional Student Performance; South Dover Elementary School in the Capital School District for Serving Special Populations; Benjamin Banneker Elementary School in the Milford School District and Lake Forest North Elementary School in the Lake Forest School District for Closing the Achievement Gap; and Smyrna Elementary School in the Smyrna School District for National ESEA Distinguished School for Closing the Achievement Gap.



- Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - Regulation 101 – State Assessment System (proposed for information June 2024)
 - Regulation 902 - Gifted or Talented Education Plan (January 2024)
 - Regulation 501 - State Content Standards (December 2023)
 - Regulation 503 - Instructional Program Requirements (December 2023)
 - Regulation 910 – Delaware Requirements for Issuance of the Secondary Credential (November 2023)

Goal 3: 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.

- Pursuant to 14 Del. C. 3310 and 14 Del. C. 104(b)(14) the State Board of Education serves as the “eligible agency” for career and vocational education. The Board took the following action related to its responsibility on the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) which the largest federal funding source to operationalize CTE programs at the secondary and postsecondary levels.
 - Dr. Jon Wickert, Director of Career & Technical Education, DDOE, facilitated regular conversations and updates regarding Perkins V State Plan updates. The Board received information about the updated draft plan and its development process at its January 2024 meeting. The plan builds on both the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) State Plan and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan, and was initially approved by the State Board at the February 2024 meeting. After SBE final approval in May 2024, the Four-Year Full State Final plan was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in June 2024. The work outlined in this plan will expand the programs, advisement, advanced coursework, and work-based learning supports for our CTE students and strengthen the connections between our education and workforce development systems.
- The Board met the two Delaware students selected for the National Science Camp and recognized their achievement with a certificate.
- Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of new policy or amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
 - Regulation 101 – State Assessment System (proposed for information June 2024)
 - Regulation 506 – Policies for Dual Enrollment and Awarding Dual Credit (May 2024)
 - Regulation 910 – Delaware Requirements for Issuance of the Secondary Credential (November 2023)

Goal 4: 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 June 2024, the Board hosted the 2024 Delaware State Teacher of the Year, Mr. Cory Hafer.
- Policy actions taken by the State Board related to this priority include:
 - Approval of amendments to the following PSB regulations:
 - Regulation 1549 - Dance Teacher (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1558 - Theatre Teacher (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1560 - Visual Arts Teacher (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1563 - Music Teacher (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1503 - Comprehensive Educator Induction Programs (April 2024)
 - Regulation 1553 - Driver and Traffic Safety Education Teacher (January 2024)
 - Regulation 1504 - Certificate of Eligibility (January 2024)
 - Regulation 1501 - Salary Supplements for Educators (November 2023)
 - Regulation 1517 - Paraeducator Permit (November 2023)
 - Regulation 1552 - JROTC Teacher (November 2023)

- Regulation 1510 - Initial License (August 2023 and February 2024)
 - Regulation 1571 - Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities (August 2023)
 - Regulation 1585 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst (August 2023)
 - Regulation 1586 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst Assistant (August 2023)
- Approval of amendments to the following DDOE regulations:
- Regulation 1211 – Career-Based Scholarship Program (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1217 - Mental Health Services Scholarship (June 2024)
 - Regulation 1213 Speech Language Pathologist Student Loan Repayment Program (August 2023)
 - Regulation 1215 High Needs Educator Student Loan Payment Program (August 2023)
 - Regulation 1216 Educator Support Scholarship Program (August 2023 and June 2024)
 - Regulation 1218 Mental Health Services Student Loan Repayment Program (August 2023)

Goal 5: 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:



- Positive Outcomes Charter School, May 2024
 - Smyrna School District, April 2024
 - Seaford School District, March 2024
 - Colonial School District, February 2024
 - Lake Forest School District, September 2023
- 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 updates regarding conditions previously placed on Great Oaks Charter School's when placed under formal review. 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 First State Military Academy: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for First State Military Academy for five years with two conditions. (December 2023)

- Renewal of Freire Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Freire Charter School for five years. (December 2023)
- Renewal of Kuumba Academy: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Kuumba Academy for five years with one condition. (December 2023)
- Renewal of Positive Outcomes Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Positive Outcomes Charter School for five years. (December 2023)
- Renewal of Sussex Montessori School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Sussex Montessori School for five years with one condition. (December 2023)
- Renewal of Great Oaks Charter School: The Board concurred with the recommendation of the Secretary and voted to renew the charter for Great Oaks Charter School for five years with three amendments and the sixteen conditions listed in the [Final CSAC Report](#). (December 2023)
- Redding Consortium for Educational Equity:
 - In April 2024, State Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha and New Castle County Councilman Jea Street, the co-chairs of the Redding Consortium Redistricting Committee presented information about the progress of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity. The Consortium mission is to recommend policies and practices to the Governor and Delaware General Assembly that will achieve educational equity and improve educational outcomes for all Pre-K to grade twelve students in the City of Wilmington and northern New Castle County; per Senate Bill 148 and House Bill 222 (updates in HB 229), the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity is mandated to address redistricting in Wilmington and Northern New Castle County.
 - In May 2024, Rep. Chukwuocha and Councilman Street provided information on the interim redistricting plan. The Consortium will continue providing progress updates in FY25.
- The Board received information on the education funding in the FY25 Governor's Recommended Budget at its February 2024 meeting.
- The Board received information and engaged in discussions on the following items related to this strategic priority:
 - Mr. Cory Hafer, 2024 Delaware State Teacher of the Year, was recognized by the Board for his accomplishments and dedication to students. Mr. Hafer discussed his work on learner-centered spaces and shared his experiences in the national cohort. (June 2024).
 - The Board also recognized the four Delaware finalists in 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 the following educators with certificates: (May 2024)
 - Brittney Campbell, mathematics, Lake Forest South Elementary School, Lake Forest School District
 - Karen Eller, science, The Bancroft School, Christina School District
 - Kerry Haley, mathematics, Forwood Elementary School, Brandywine School District
 - Carlos Pesquera, mathematics, H. O. Brittingham Elementary School, Cape Henlopen School District

State Board Operations and External Engagement

- The State Board fulfilled its statutory responsibilities regarding three student appeals (Fall 2023) and one administrator appeal (Fall 2023)
- A new part-time Administrative Assistant was hired in July 2023 and moved to another workgroup in February 2024. The vacancy was posted and a successful candidate was hired in June 2024.
- The Board continues to utilize Facebook and Instagram to share information.
- Student Member Gus Musika assisted in facilitating continued outreach and engagement efforts for high school students, and Vice President Deb Stevens and Executive Director Kathleen Smith participated alongside him. The first was a statewide virtual forum held in November 2023, followed by in-person forums at Middletown High School in February and at Seaford High School in March. 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 2023, the Secretary Scholars Dinner in April 2024, and the Behavioral Health Professional of the Year Dinner in May 2024. Vice President Stevens provided remarks at the Education Support Professional of the Year Dinner in December 2023.
- Board Members participated in several school visits, including reading to students, pictured below, from clockwise: Shawn Brittingham at Blades Elementary in Seaford, Deb Stevens at Eisenberg Elementary in Colonial, Harvey Kenton at Morris Early Childhood Center in Milford.



P-20 Council:

The P-20 Council, co-chaired by the President of the State Board of Education and the Secretary of Education, met four times during the 2023-24 school year to receive updates on three main focus-areas and to recommend next steps related to those P-20 Council priorities:

- **Early Childhood Development and School Readiness**
 - Caitlin Gleason, Associate Secretary, Early Childhood Support, presented information about the addition of a third team under Early Childhood Support with a Director of the Office of Early Childhood Intervention. The Council also received information on steps toward recruitment and retention of the childcare workforce, a collaboration with Delaware State University, and details about the Quality Improvement Awards (September 2023)
 - Dr. Monica Gant, Associate Secretary of Academic Support, DDOE provided updates on the legislation and implementation of the Science of Reading. (December 2023)
 - Caitlin Gleason shared information about the licensing of public and private early childhood schools and the qualifications of childcare professionals. (May 2024)
- **College and Career Readiness and Success**
 - Julie Murawski, Director, Higher Education Office, DDOE, provided an overview of the project timeline and scope of Delaware's planning process for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. (September 2023)
 - Dr. LeAnn Fong-Batkin, Senior Project Manager, Data Systems, WestEd Center for Economic Mobility, provided an overview of the project timeline and scope of Delaware's planning process for the Statewide Longitudinal Data System. (December 2023)
 - Jon Wickert, Director of Career and Technical Education and STEM Initiatives, DDOE and Joanna Staib, Executive Director, Delaware Workforce Development Board, provided an overview of the 2024 Draft Perkins V State Plan timelines and progress. (February 2024)
 - Juliet Murawski provided an update on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, noting the supports that Delaware put into place for students and families, including deadline extensions. (May 2024)
 - The Council discussed the Student Information System and Learning Management System 'Campus SIS Project' with Kristi Pelezo, Director of Technology and Data Office, DDOE and Alyssa Moore, Education Associate for Digital Learning, DDOE. (February 2024)
- **Educator Preparation and Success**
 - Dr. Gary T. Henry, Dean of the University of Delaware College of Education and Human Development along with Krissy Najera, Director of UD's Center for Excellence and Equity in Teacher Preparation, presented "University of Delaware Responses to Address the Teacher Shortage and Diversity of the DE Educator Workforce". (December 2023)
 - Dana Davisson, Clinical Practice Director, Relay Graduate School of Education presented information on Relay's educator preparation programs. (February 2024)
 - Justina Thomas, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Delaware Technical Community College presented information on educator preparation at Del Tech.(May 2024)



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 FY24 Annual Report can be found on the State Board of Education's website at <http://bit.ly/deSBE>