

# Delaware State Board of Education



**Vision Statement:** 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 Statement:** 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.

**Guiding Principles:** The State Board remains committed to approaching its work through the following 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.

## Roles and Responsibilities

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 evaluation, DIAA regulations, 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, budget requests, etc.
- **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.

# DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP



**Whitney Sweeney**  
President



**Shawn Brittingham**  
Vice President



**Wali W. Rushdan, II**  
Member



**Candice Fifer**  
Member



**Vincent Lofink**  
Member



**Provey Powell, Jr.**  
Member



**Audrey J. Noble**  
Member



**Wendy Turner**  
Teacher Member



**Shelby Farris**  
Student Member

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. Members have residence in each of Delaware's counties and the city of Wilmington, belong to different political parties, and bring a diverse set of skills and perspectives to the work. At least two members have previously served on a local board of education.

Background information on each member can be [found on our website here.](#)

For more information: [bit.ly/SBEDelaware](https://bit.ly/SBEDelaware)