

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



Wali W. Rushdan, II
Vice President



Shawn Brittingham
Member



Candice Fifer
Member



Vincent Lofink
Member



Provey Powell, Jr.
Member



Audrey J. Noble
Member



Wendy Turner
Teacher Member



Elise Sampson
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



Susan Bunting
Secretary of Education
SBE Executive Secretary