

# Delaware State Education Association 2011-2012 Legislative Program for 146th General Assembly

*as adopted by the 2010 DSEA Representative Assembly, Dover, DE*

## · Improved, Sustained Funding for Public Schools

The adequate and equitable funding of Delaware's public schools is required to ensure that our children --- regardless of where they live or the personal circumstance of their individual lives --- have educational opportunities that allow each child to reach her or his full potential.

## · Improved Pay for Public Education Employees

Compensation must be improved in order to attract and retain high quality public education staff for our schools and state agencies. DSEA's priorities include a starting salary for professionally certified school staff of \$40,000. Additionally, the salaries for instructional and service aides are shamefully low and should begin at least with the federal poverty level for a family of four.

## · Strengthened Fringe Benefit Programs

Public education employees have a progressive, historically well-funded package of fringe benefits that help to attract and retain a high quality work force that must be protected, particularly in times of economic stress.

## · Protect and Nurture Children

Every educator knows the heartbreak and frustration of children who are too hungry, sick, or traumatized to learn well. The opportunity to learn cannot be divorced from socio-economic realities, and those realities are becoming more challenging. In 2010, more than 26% of all US children will live in poverty. DSEA will be supportive of legislation, policy, and initiatives which promote the welfare of children and the economic stability of their families.

## · Charter School Accountability

The growth of charter schools since passage of the original law in 1995 continues without taking into consideration the effects of new charter authorizations on existing local public school districts. With public resources scarce it is more important than ever to regulate the charter market by making the state Department of Education the single authorizing authority with guidelines that avoid duplication of services and mitigate the impact on community schools.

