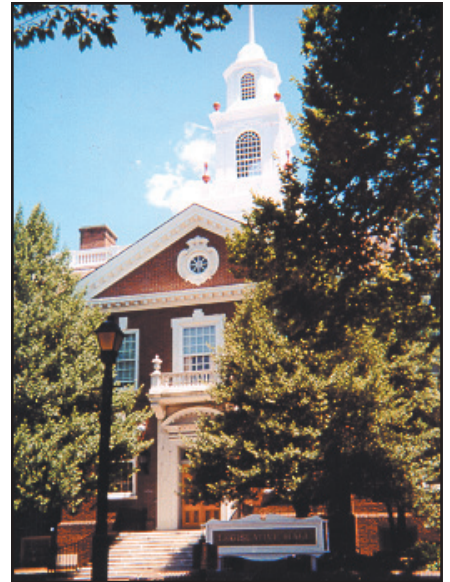


The Legislative Priorities for the 145th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, as adopted by the DSEA Representative Assembly, March 2008



Leadership for Great Public Schools

2009-2010 Legislative Program

Five broad legislative priorities are adopted by the 2008 DSEA Representative Assembly for the 145th 2009-2010 Delaware General Assembly.

- **Complete overhaul of the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP)**

DSEA will work to replace the current Delaware State Testing Program (DSTP) with an assessment instrument/program that evaluates individual student growth in core subject areas over the course of a school year and provides timely information on student performance that will allow teachers and school staff to make changes in instructional strategies.

- **Adequate, equitable, and 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 circumstances of their individual lives --- have access to the educational opportunities that allow them to reach their fullest potential. DSEA will work to replace the current funding allocation system with a need-based formula that takes into account the composition of an individual school's student body.

- **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: (1) realization of minimum state pay levels for all ESPs (US Poverty figure for family of four); and (2) re-structuring of teacher salary schedule to reduce number of steps and provide competitive salaries in line with findings of 2007 report of the Public Education Compensation Committee.

- **Strengthened fringe benefit programs**

The State of Delaware has historically funded fringe benefits responsibly which helps to attract and retain a high quality work force. This package must be protected, particularly in times of economic stress and DSEA will work to continue to minimize the so-called 'out-of-pocket' costs.

- **Charter school accountability**

After 13 years in practice, the Delaware charter school law requires changes to ensure better accountability of charter schools. In light of the state-sponsored evaluation report by Western Michigan University, it is important to change this law to take into consideration the effect of all new proposed charter schools on existing public school districts to ensure the strongest possible overall system of public education for our state.