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DSEA Announces Support of Senate Bill 42 *Bill calls for the one-year pause in DPAS II evaluations*

DOVER, Del. – Legislation to pause Delaware’s annual educator evaluations and replace them with coaching and support during the COVID-19 pandemic unanimously passed the State Senate today with the full support of the Delaware State Education Association.

If passed by the House, Senate Bill 42 would suspend the Delaware Performance Appraisal System II (DPAS II) during the 2020-2021 school year. In DPAS II’s place, the legislation would require evaluators to provide coaching and support to educators related to hybrid and remote learning practices. The bill also would allow educators to engage in an observation and feedback cycle to determine professional development needs that support educators’ growth and development, while establishing a shared understanding of best practices in remote or hybrid instruction.

“Our educators have been working around the clock to learn new ways to keep their students continue learning no matter the environment that they are learning in. They are teaching students who are at home while simultaneously teaching cohorts of students in their classrooms. And, they are learning new technologies and programs to better reach their students during these unique educational circumstances” said **DSEA President Stephanie Ingram**. “Educators are in survival mode. They need support and meaningful feedback. What they don’t need is to have their permanent record adversely effected by these temporary and challenging circumstances. Senate Bill 42 does just that by pausing these official evaluations and making them supportive and beneficial to the educators and the students.”

Senate Bill 42 was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bryan Townsend, along with leadership of both Democratic Caucus and the chairs of the Education Committees in both the House and Senate. The legislation now heads to the House Education Committee for consideration on Wednesday.

“Whether they are teaching remotely or in a hybrid format, educators across this state are working tirelessly to provide our children with the best education possible during this pandemic,” said **Senate Majority Leader Bryan Townsend**, D-Newark/Bear. “The current educator evaluation system is insufficient to measure their efforts and simply unfair, especially in the middle of a pandemic. This legislation will ensure our educators are instead getting the feedback and support they need to continue overcoming the incredible challenges they face each and every day.”

“I would like to thank our educators for all they’ve done throughout this pandemic, and thank my colleagues in the General Assembly for supporting this much needed legislation” said **House Education Chair Kim Williams**, D-Newport. “SB 42 is just one way that legislators can step up and support our educators during these stressful times. The DPAS tools will still be there, and educators will receive the support they need, but there is no simple way to hold evaluations when we are in both remote and hybrid models of instruction. Pausing this portion of DPAS will allow more time for administrators and educators to focus their time on student needs, which should be everyone’s top priority right now.”

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