

Delaware and The Southern Regional Education Board

This report details Delaware's participation in SREB programs and services from June 2014 through May 2015. Appropriations from member states support SREB's core operations and general services. SREB leverages the long-standing commitment of member states to attract external funding for an array of targeted projects for educational improvement efforts in member states. Delaware receives a number of general services, plus access to programs funded by grants, contracts and fees for specific services.

Leadership

SREB Board

Jack Markell, Governor

Steven H. Godowsky, Secretary of Education

Robert W. Rescigno, Assistant Professor, Wilmington University

Darryl M. Scott, Former State Representative

David P. Sokola, State Senator

SREB Legislative Advisory Council

Stephanie Bolden, State Representative, Wilmington

Debra Heffernan, State Representative, Wilmington

Earl G. Jaques, State Representative, Newark

Joseph Miro, State Representative, Newark

Brian Pettyjohn, State Senator, Georgetown

Michael Ramone, State Representative, Newark

F. Gary Simpson, State Senator, Milford

David Sokola, State Senator, Newark

Senator Sokola is the eighth longest-serving member of the Council, since 1998.

Policy

Goals for education | Monitoring state policies

Monitoring, measuring and reporting through comparative and state-specific reports to assist education leaders and policymakers as they shape public policy in education. SREB tracks trends and analyzes the progress of all 16 SREB states in each area in the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education and provides Legislative Reports that detail legislative and budget actions in each state.

Delaware information is included in all reports, as applicable, and several are targeted specifically for Delaware. 2014-15 reports:

Delaware: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

2014 State Progress Report on the Challenge to Lead 2020 Goals for Education

High School to College and Careers, 2014

The ACT and SAT: No Longer Just College Admission Tests

SREB States Transform School Accountability with NCLB Waivers, 2014

Workforce Development in SREB States: The Role of Two-Year Colleges in Preparing Students for Middle-Skill Jobs

Focus on Compulsory Attendance Policies: About Age or Intervention?

Notes on School Finance: Selected Information on Funding for Low-Income Students in SREB States

Legislative Reports and Legislative Briefing

More information: Joan.Lord@SREB.org or Jeff.Gagne@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211

College and career readiness

Intensive work to help states implement essential components of SREB's recommendations for statewide college and career readiness.

1. Adopt statewide readiness standards for literacy and mathematics skills.
2. Assess high school juniors to determine their progress toward the standards.
3. Offer transitional readiness courses. Require juniors assessed as underprepared to take the courses in 11th or 12th grade.
4. Apply the standards in deciding whether students need learning support after admission to college.
5. Hold schools accountable for increasing postsecondary readiness.

SREB staff have worked with Delaware Legislative Advisory Council and SREB Board members on the postsecondary readiness actions.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Readiness

Benchmarking State Implementation of College- and Career-Readiness Standards

Tracks and reports state progress on how states are implementing college- and career-readiness standards.

SREB launched a new phase of benchmarking in February 2015. In this work, SREB tracks and will report on implementation of standards and related reforms in **all 16 SREB** states.

Publications

In January 2015, SREB published ***Benchmarking State Implementation of College-and Career-Readiness Standards, Aligned Assessments and Related Reforms***. Six reports make up the set covering 14 states: a cross-state findings report that describes trends across the states — plus five reports with detailed state profiles by topic.

The reports note Delaware as a **leading state** for standards and assessments and professional development and a **strong state** for aligned teaching resources and teacher and leader evaluation.

Support for States

Benchmarking staff presented on implementation of college- and career-readiness standards to:

- SREB Board and Legislative Advisory Council members, including attendees from Delaware, at SREB's 2014 Annual Meeting in June.
- Legislative and governors' staff, including attendees from Delaware, in October 2014.

More information: Kim.Anderson@SREB.org | (404) 775-9366 | SREB.org/1600

English Learners

Conference on preparing English language learners for college and career, co-hosted in May 2014 by SREB, the National Council on La Raza and the Hunt Institute.

A **fact sheet for Delaware** includes population trends, state and federal policies, and programs, standards and assessments for English learners.

More information: Dave.Spence@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1785

Educator effectiveness

Helps states create policies that support teacher effectiveness so students learn more in the classroom. SREB staff work with policymakers and state agencies in all member states to help them translate current research on what works into evaluation systems that create an environment where teaching improves.

SREB educator effectiveness staff engaged with representatives from the Delaware Department of Education during the State Consortium on Educator Effectiveness held by the Council of Chief State School Officers in Atlanta in April.

Staff provided expertise to those who attended the Evaluation Implementation Convening held by the Reform Support Network in April.

Strategic Data Fellows working at the Delaware Department of Education participated in a webinar provided by the SREB educator effectiveness team on state teacher equity plans in February.

Representatives from the Delaware Department of Education shared their experience building and implementing evaluation systems and networked with other SREB state representatives at **SREB's annual educator effectiveness convening** in Atlanta in February.

Representatives from the Delaware Department of Education attended the Equitable Access to Excellent Teachers and Leaders meeting in San Diego, during which the SREB educator effectiveness team presented information on state equity plans in February.

The SREB team refreshed the **educator effectiveness Bill Tracker** in January, which allows Delaware policymakers to track bills across eight topics, including teacher preparation, evaluation and professional learning.

Staff presented on educator evaluation at SREB's Legislative Advisory Council meeting in December.

Staff provided general technical assistance at an Education Counsel event on state teacher equity plans in November.

SREB staff updated Delaware representatives attending SREB's Meeting of Legislative and Governors' Staff in October on recent changes to **educator evaluation systems** in SREB states.

SREB released the Elements of Evaluation interactive database in October 2014, which allows Delaware policymakers to explore policies across 16 states on classroom observations, student growth measures and professional learning systems.

An SREB staff member serves on a **technical advisory committee** for the Delaware Department of Education's Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit.

Throughout the year, the SREB team provided technical assistance to **Delaware Department of Education** staff who are leading the implementation of the state's new educator evaluation system.

More than 1,000 policymakers and practitioners across the 16 SREB states receive the bi-weekly educator effectiveness e-newsletter.

The SREB educator effectiveness team provided technical assistance, brokered expertise and provided policy and practice resources to Delaware:

- SREB Board and LAC members
- State legislators and legislative staff
- Governor's staff
- State education agency staff
- District superintendents
- School principals
- Teachers

More information: Andy.Baxter@SREB.org | (704) 247-7497 | SREB.org/EE

Early childhood education

SREB Early Childhood Commission

Convenes leaders to recommend policies that will give more young children a solid start when they enter school. The Commission's focus is on access to high-quality programs and the importance of highly skilled teachers to young children's learning experiences. The Commission will present draft recommendations for the SREB Board to consider in summer 2015 and will publish its report later in 2015.

Delaware member of the Commission:

Joseph Miro, State Representative

More information: Mark.Emblidge@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/EarlyLearning

Postsecondary education

Two commissions carried SREB's completion initiative into the states in 2014 and 2015 with strong emphasis on readiness and pathways for community colleges and affordability for all students. Building on the success of the 2011-14 regional working groups of legislators to vet issues and craft recommendations, both commissions included Board and Legislative Advisory Council members and other key policymakers in the states.

SREB Commission on Career and Technical Education

Explored how optional career pathway programs of study can help more students acquire the academic and technical knowledge and skills needed to earn industry and postsecondary credentials and degrees to secure high-skill, high-wage, high-demand jobs.

The Commission's final report, *Credentials for All: An Imperative for SREB States*, offers states policies and practices to build high-quality career pathways that transform their educational systems, increase postsecondary credential and degree attainment, and ensure their future economic security.

Delaware Commission members:

Teri Quinn Gray, President, Delaware State Board of Education

David Sokola, State Senator

More information: Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/CTECommission

SREB Commission on College Affordability in the South

Recommends postsecondary policies that lead with the need for affordability and adjust institutional appropriations, student aid and tuition policies accordingly.

Delaware members of the Commission:

Shana Payne, Director, Delaware Higher Education Office

David Sokola, State Senator

More information: Cheryl.Blanco@SREB.org | (404) 8759211 | SREB.org/Affordability

State Services

Connects policymakers with custom information, presentations and assistance on education issues as they arise.

Custom information by request of Delaware policymakers and staff:

Parent: Academic Common Market

Board member: State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

Legislative staff: about SREB

Legislator: Career Tech Commission

Legislator: employment and earnings data legislation

Governor's staff: employment and earning data legislation

Governor's staff: early childhood care governance structure

Governor's staff: dual enrollment

More information: Gale.Gaines@SREB.org | (404) 879-5582 | SREB.org/StateServices

Professional Development for Teachers, Principals and Counselors

High Schools That Work Staff Development Conference

Annual conference for thousands of school leaders, teachers and counselors from middle grades, high schools and technology centers across the country. The 2015 conference will be held in Atlanta July 15-18.

Delaware attendees at the July 2014 conference: **20**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/SummerConference

College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference

Conference on the proven strategies of the Literacy and Mathematics Design Collaborative frameworks. More than 1,200 teachers and leaders attend to collaborate and share effective instructional strategies. This year's conference will be held in Atlanta July 13-15.

Delaware attendees at the July 2014 conference: **1**

More information: Anna.Johnston@SREB.org | (404) 962-9629 | SREB.org/NetworkingConference

Counselors

College and Career Counseling Initiative

Training to improve the effectiveness of teachers, counselors and college access program staff to prepare students from low-income families for postsecondary education. A 2014 survey of more than 500 enrollees found that 92 percent are changing their practice as a result of the training; 93 percent are implementing action plans developed in the program; and 95 percent would recommend the training to colleagues.

Delaware is one of 14 participating states and one of six original collaborating states.

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/1663

High School and Middle Grades Improvement

SREB Readiness Courses

Math Ready and Literacy Ready

Ready for postsecondary study

SREB courses that teach the reading, writing and mathematics skills young adults must have to succeed in college study and the workplace after high school — how to think independently, read for information and solve problems. Developed by teams of educators and faculty from partner states around the nation, they are being field tested in several states and are available at no cost.

Delaware is using the SREB model and other resources to develop its own courses.

More information: John.Squires@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/Ready

High Schools That Work

Helps states transform public high schools into places where all students learn at high levels and complete at higher rates. Reforms create career pathway roadmaps for college and career readiness to meet regional and state workforce needs. HSTW serves more than 1,350 schools in 30 states. Schools receive services through membership in the HSTW state network or through contracts for intensive, customized support.

HSTW State Network

Member states select schools to receive services. The fee for state membership in the consortium covers several services and visits.

Three Delaware schools were active in the High Schools That Work state network in 2014-15. SREB trainers provided professional development services for enhanced career and technical education project-based learning and literacy support.

Luke Rhine, Director, Career and Technical Education, Delaware Department of Education, serves on the HSTW Board from Delaware.

More information: Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

HSTW Assessment

Subject tests, along with student and teacher surveys to establish baseline data, track progress and identify areas for improvement.

Two Delaware schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment.

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/HSTW

Enhanced Project-Based Learning in CTE

Training model for existing career and technical education programs in high-demand, high-skill, high-wage fields. Teachers improve assignments and assessments by working with business and industry partners to develop projects that require students to apply technical, academic, college- and career-readiness and technology skills.

2014-15

Dover High School received four days of training for 17 teachers and three administrators.

2015-16

Dover High School will move into the sustainability training with support for teacher leaders.

An additional **six schools** will begin the first year of training for project-based learning in CTE.

More information: Sandy.Cullota@SREB.org | (302) 258-5787

2014 Award-Winning Schools

HSTW Platinum High Achievement Schools participated in the 2014 HSTW Assessment, and at least 85 percent of students met at least one readiness goal, one or more parts of the recommended curriculum, and at least one recommended concentration. Winning schools are classified as high implementation sites and met state AYP or had a graduation rate of at least 85 percent. The following school earned the award in 2012 and 2014:

Sussex Technical High School, Georgetown

More information: Fran.Cowart@SREB.org | (404) 879-5611

Higher Education Programs and Services

Tuition savings, access to uncommon degrees

Academic Common Market

Provides in-state tuition access to degree programs not available in a student's home state. Approximately 2,500 new students participate each year in 1,900 programs at 150 institutions.

Participating Delaware students, calendar year 2014: **88**

Delaware ACM Representative:

Chesiree Wise, Data Analyst, Delaware Higher Education Office

Electronic Campus

Partners with colleges and universities to give students access to almost 37,000 online courses and more than 3,400 online degree programs.

Programs provided by Delaware institutions as of April 2015: **11**

EC Representative:

Chesiree Wise, Data Analyst, Delaware Higher Education Office

Regional Contract Program

Gives students the opportunity to earn a professional health degree from participating institutions in other states through in-state tuition rates at public institutions or reduced tuition at private institutions. SREB is fiscal agent and handles administrative duties without additional fees to the state, institutions or students. More than 700 students participate each year.

Delaware residents can enroll in programs to which they otherwise may not have access. For the 2014-15 academic year, **seven Delaware residents** participated in veterinary medicine programs at the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and the University of Georgia through this SREB program.

RCP Representative:

Chesiree Wise, Data Analyst, Delaware Higher Education Office

SREB Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement

*Allows institutions to be authorized by their home state to eliminate the need for individual approvals in SREB states where they serve students online. SREB states opt in to SECRRA. A new, nationwide system of reciprocity — **SARA, or the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** — will open more high-quality online offerings for students and ease regulatory burdens on institutions.*

Delaware participates in SECRRA. SREB staff presented on SARA to Delaware state agency and higher education representatives in April 2014. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for July 2015.

SARA Representative:

Angeline A. Willen Ravello, Director, Teacher & Administrator Quality, Delaware Department of Education

More information: Mary.Larson@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1083

Comparative data

SREB-State Data Exchange

Collects, compiles and publishes data and descriptive statistics on postsecondary education. Data are updated annually on a wide range of policy topics: degree and certificate completion, student persistence and progression, time- and credits-to-degree, student credit hours (including those taken in high school), tuition and fee levels and policies, and faculty salaries. Postsecondary agencies in each SREB state participate and appoint coordinators.

Participating agency and 2015-16 Data Exchange Coordinator:

Delaware Higher Education Commission: Chesiree Wise, Data Analyst, Delaware Higher Education Office

SREB Fact Book on Higher Education

One of the nation's most comprehensive collections of comparative data. The Fact Book keeps policymakers informed with trend data for all 50 states on the population and the economy, college enrollment, degrees awarded, tuition and fees, student financial aid and cost of attendance, faculty and administrators, as well as revenue and expenditures including state appropriations. Fact Book tables are updated regularly at SREB.org/Data.

Delaware leaders receive the annual ***SREB-State Data Exchange Indicators Report***, the ***SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, as well as ***Delaware: Featured Facts from the SREB Fact Book on Higher Education***, ***Fact Book Bulletins*** and special reports.

More information: Susan.Lounsbury@SREB.org | (404) 879-5546 | SREB.org/Data

Nursing education

Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing

Helps expand and strengthen schools of nursing to reduce the critical shortage of nurse educators needed to educate the nation's registered nurses. The Council surveys institutions for nursing education trends and shares online graduate nursing courses.

Delaware participating institution and representative:

University of Delaware: Kathleen Schell, Director

Nursing Council: Government Relations and Membership Committees

More information: Eula.Aiken@SREB.org | (404) 879-5567 | SREB.org/Nursing

Minority Ph.D. scholars

SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

Supports minority students to help them earn their Ph.D.s and seek employment that helps colleges and universities diversify their faculties. The Doctoral Scholars Program hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars — with more than 1,200 attendees.

Scholars funded by Delaware in 2014-15: **0**

2014 Institute attendees from Delaware: **1**

Scholars Delaware has supported since 1993: **2**

Graduates since 1993: **1**

Graduates currently employed: **1**

Percent employed in education: **0**

Delaware-supported students have attended these institutions since 1993:

University of Delaware

More information: Ansley.Abraham@SREB.org | (404) 879-5573 | SREB.org/DoctoralScholars

Interstate Cooperatives

Technology Purchasing Savings

Schools, universities and agencies in SREB states saved 3 percent to 18 percent on \$17 million in technology purchases during fiscal year 2014 through SREB's participation in MHECtech discount agreements. Organizations in each of the 16 SREB states participated.

Delaware technology purchases, FY 2014: **\$143,600**

More information: Camille.Martin@SREB.org | (404) 875-9211 | SREB.org/1697

Go Alliance

An interstate cooperative to increase high school graduation rates, access to education beyond high school, and postsecondary degree completion — particularly for those who would be the first in their families to enroll. Go Alliance research, services and professional development focus on college access policy and communications strategies to motivate students to plan for and apply to college.

Delaware participates in Go Alliance and is represented by Shana Payne, Delaware Department of Education.

“The biggest thing we’ve implemented this year that I learned about through Go Alliance is the texting program to reduce ‘summer melt’ and to support students. The Go Alliance workshop [on this topic] was very comprehensive. We’ve been texting almost half of our Delaware seniors (4,000 signed up) and 425 parents since January 2015. We have six out of six Delaware colleges and universities onboard! Delaware is now part of a research project to document how to scale this project.

— Karen Keegan, **Delaware Department of Education**

More information: AliceAnne.Bailey@SREB.org | (404) 879-5601 | SREB.org/GoAlliance

The Southern Regional Education Board was created in 1948 by Southern governors and legislators who recognized the link between education and economic vitality. To this day, the organization maintains its focus on critical issues that hold the promise of improving quality of life by advancing public education. The region’s track record shows that setting goals and maintaining the commitment to work toward them make a difference.