Delaware Context

Delaware Public School Data (2015-16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Delaware District/School Data</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Districts</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vo-Tech School Districts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Charter Public Schools</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public Schools</td>
<td>226</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Enrollment (Percent All Students Enrollment)</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Students</td>
<td>167,437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Public School</td>
<td>136,027 (81.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter Public School</td>
<td>13,897 (8.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private School</td>
<td>17,513 (10.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public School Student Demographics

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learner</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
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</table>

Delaware Goes to College
Program Overview

SEPTEMBER
Access to Opportunity Tours
Statewide FAFSA training

OCTOBER
Fall Counselor training
College Application Month begins
FAFSA opens October 1

NOVEMBER
College Application Month
FAFSA Completion

DECEMBER – MARCH
FAFSA Completion
Application Tracking

APRIL – MAY
Celebration Season

JUNE – AUGUST
Summer Melt

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT
Higher Education Office Impact Statement:
To increase career opportunities for Delaware students, the Higher Education Office, in partnership with the Department of Education, K-12 system, and the state’s colleges and universities will increase the college enrollment rate to 60% by 2018 and clear the path towards college graduation for those students.

Two (of many) areas of focus:
• College Access/Post-Secondary Initiatives
  – Access to Opportunity Tour
  – Texting: 9-12 graders and their parents, state-wide
  – Senior Packets
  – College Application Month
  – FAFSA Completion
  – Monitoring Student Progress
  – Celebration of Students’ Acceptances
  – Summer Checklists, 9-11 grades/Summer Melt supports for graduating seniors
  – Hispanic Outreach
  – DE College Scholars

• State of Delaware Scholarship Administration
Partnerships

- School Counselors
- Delaware Goes to College Advisory Council
- College Access Partners
  - Community organizations that work with students on post-secondary planning
- StandByMe
  - Offers a menu of event options to high schools on financial aid/FAFSA completion/scholarships
- Delaware Colleges and Universities
**Getting to Zero Campaign**

- **College-Ready Students**
  - SAT scores of:
    - 480 Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing AND
    - 530 Math

- **College-Potential Students** — at least one of the following:
  - Either SAT scores of 480 EBRW OR 530 Math
  - 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement Exam
  - C or higher in a Dual Enrollment class

- **Data Collected**
  - Participation in College Application Month
  - Schools applied to
  - Where student plans to attend, and if not going to college, reason why not (military, medical, parent decision, volunteer work, etc.)
College Ready and College Potential Students
Higher Education Application Volume
Students in Graduating Class of: 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Reporting Category</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>No Application Data</th>
<th>Total College Applications</th>
<th>Applied to 1 College</th>
<th>Applied to 2 Colleges</th>
<th>Applied to 3 Colleges</th>
<th>Applied to 4 or More Colleges</th>
<th>FAFSA Completed</th>
<th>College Decisions (Due May 8)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sample School District</td>
<td>Example 1 High School</td>
<td>College Ready</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>College Potential</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>95</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td><strong>School Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>244</strong></td>
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<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>170</strong></td>
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<td>Example 2 High School</td>
<td></td>
<td>College Ready</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>College Potential</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>74</td>
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<td><strong>404</strong></td>
<td><strong>97</strong></td>
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<td><strong>50</strong></td>
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<th>Medical</th>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Internship</th>
<th>Moving</th>
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<th>Student Decision</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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Data Results

For College-Ready and College Potential Students:

• Class of 2016
  – 98% applied to college
  – 1% military
  – 1% other (medical, volunteer, internship, work)

• Class of 2015
  – 99% of college-ready/potential students applied to college
  – 1% military
Access To Opportunity Tour

- Started by Governor Markell – 2014
- Speak to each senior class, early fall
- Importance of continuing students’ education
- Outline of the process and timing
- Things to consider – fit, majors/earnings/debt
- State of Delaware resources and supports
  - Scholarships
    - SEED Scholarship - tuition-free associate degree
  - DelawareGoesToCollege.org
  - Social media
Purpose: To connect directly with high school students and their parents on college-going topics

- Financial aid & scholarship applications
- Evaluation of admissions offers
- College selection
- College transition / summer melt

Partners

- Current partners (3rd year): Signal Vine, University of Delaware - Institute for Public Administration

Sample texts received from students/parents

- I haven’t heard back from FAFSA – any way you can help me sort that out?

- My mom and I were talking the other day and we were wondering when do we start paying for college? Do we pay for my first year before or what? So then we can start worrying about student loans

- (from a parent) May I send you a photo of the aid package?

- I received my financial aid from one of my schools but one school listed a pell grant but another school did not...can they be called a different name or?
Take the Leap, Be the First

• Senior Packets
  – College Info mailed to each senior’s home

• Hispanic and First-Generation Outreach
  – Take the Leap, Be the First!
  – Videos
  – Finding opportunities in existing events to communicate info (ex. Hispanic Commission)
  – Press – radio interviews, newspapers
  – DOE staff who work with migrant families
Delaware College Scholars Program

• Partnership between DE Dept. of Education and St. Andrews School, plus private funders
• Good students (3.0 GPA) from low-income households and/or first-generation
• Students attend 3 summers, from after 10th grade to after high school graduation
• Academic enrichment, SAT prep, college tours, exposure to the college application process
• No cost to students
Governor Markell and a DE College Scholar graduate!
Celebrations

• College acceptance and other post-secondary plans are celebrated
Celebrations
FAFSA Completion

• Delaware Department of Education pulls FAFSA completion lists for all seniors
• Communications regarding FAFSA completion:
  – Access to Opportunity Tour
  – Text Messages to students/parents
  – Emails sent from State scholarship database
  – Completion lists by high school sent to school counselors every 2 weeks (data sharing agreement in place)
  – Events hosted in schools – financial aid info sessions, FAFSA completion workshops
  – DelawareGoesToCollege.org
  – DE Goes to College social media – FB, Twitter, Instagram
The College Funding Project

• DHEO partnered with StandByMe (SBM), a state agency focused on financial empowerment organization, to create The College Funding Project

• The College Funding Project is in its third year under contract to the Delaware Higher Education Office.
  – The goal is to provide students and their families with accurate and helpful information about financial aid – what is it and how to access it
  – Provides hands on FAFSA application workshops and one-on-one mentoring.
Stand By Me

• Works with principals and school counselors in every Delaware high school to deliver workshops and resources for students and their families.

• Their mission is to ensure that all high school seniors have a funding strategy to pay for college.

• They provide a menu of services that schools can pick from, many schools in Delaware available of all of the services offered.
Stand By Me Menu of Services

• Paying for College Presentation
  – This workshop provides an overview of the many options available to families to pay for college

• FAFSA Walk Through
  – Provides step-by-step instructions for completing the FAFSA with screenshots from the FAFSA website

• FAFSA Completion Workshop
  – A hands on workshop that provides students and families with real time assistance in completing the FAFSA
Stand By Me Menu of Services

• Scholarship Presentation
  – This workshop explores scholarship opportunities from federal and state as well as private organizations and online sources

• Paying for College for Juniors
  – This is an overview of options for paying for college so that students and their parents are aware of financial aid as they approach their senior year.
• Schools will identify all college-ready/potential students who have not successfully submitted the FAFSA. The high school and SBM will work to get these families to a FAFSA Workshop.
• Below are some issues that SBM has identified and offered solutions for:
• The names in red that are missing a parent signature. We need a parent to show up, so that we can help her sign the FAFSA.
• The names in blue text have a problem with the student's SSN. The student should bring her social security card (or a photo of it) to the FAFSA Workshop, so that we may resolve.
• Brittany XXX entered an incorrect value for income tax. We can fix this quickly.
• The names in green text need a student signature. This is usually a quick fix (unless other issues arise, such as SSN).
Attendance at Stand By Me Events

• For the 2014-2015 school year Stand By Me conducted 96 paying for college events in Delaware High Schools and reached over 3800 individuals.

• For the 2015-16 year SBM held 133 events with 5995 attendees.

• For the 2016-17 school year 180 events have been scheduled so far and to date 4300 individuals have attended. It is anticipated that attendance this year will exceed 7,000.
Next Steps for Delaware

• Delaware Goes to College - Program Evaluation
• Communicate possible solutions for the challenge of counselors not having access to low-income status information
• Providing college and career resources and supports for earlier grades
• College access training for school counselors
Contact Information

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