



SPECIALIZED PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

WEIC Charter District Collaboration Subcommittee
March 9, 2017

Background

- Until mid-1990's parents sent their child to the district of residence feeder pattern school, vocational technical school, private school, or homeschool
- In 1995 two legislative Acts changed this – one allowed for “school choice” and one allowed charter schools to be established
- As of the 2015-16 school year
 - 136,027 public school students enrolled in Delaware schools
 - 6,461 students (4.7%) are choicing across districts (inter-district choice)
 - 15,272 students (11.2%) are choicing within district (intra-district choice)
 - 13,897 of students (10.2%) are in charter schools
 - Currently there are 16 traditional public school districts, 3 vocational-technical districts, and 25 charter schools operating in Delaware

Timeline – Phase I - 2015

Phase I

- January 2015 – The Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (WEAC) was established by Governor Markell. The final report requested a strategic plan be initiated to examine charter schools, including consideration of the appropriate mix of traditional, charter and vo-tech schools
- March 19, 2015 - Governor Markell charged the State Board of Education (SBE) and Department with conducting a needs assessment for the specialized educational opportunities and charged the Department with the development of a strategic plan
- April 2015 - The State Board of Education and Department convened a small working group of primary stakeholders to develop a Request for Proposal for the needs assessment. Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) was awarded the contract
- May 5, 2015 - House Bill 56 as amended by House Amendment 1 required that “no new charter schools shall be authorized to open in the City of Wilmington prior to June 30, 2018, or until the development of a needs assessment and strategic plan for specialized educational opportunities...” is completed
- August-October 2015 - PCG conducted a survey to gather information on what specialized programs are being offered, the number of seats available, waiting list if available, participants; developed an interactive online map and a final report
- December 2015 - The final report was presented before the State Board of Education

Timeline – Phase II - 2016

Phase II

- April 2016 - October 2016, the Department worked with PCG to identify additional information needed for the development of the Strategic Plan, such as national best practices, gap analysis, stakeholder outreach and the development of a strategic roadmap and final report
- October 2016 – December 2016, a small committee of stakeholders met 4 times to discuss PCG's recommendations and to review the information generated by PCG, and other relevant information.
 - *The membership of the committee included legislators, traditional district and vocational technical superintendents, charter school leaders, and community members from across the state*
- January 2017 – The committee reached many of the same recommendations as PCG in recognizing that various barriers exist in the school choice process
 - *Removing these barriers will better allow parents to identify which schools will serve their child's needs and allow the state, districts and school develop programs to best serve the needs*
- The Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Educational Opportunities identifies strategies to address these barriers

STRATEGIC PLAN



Strategic Plan

Goal

“To provide a cohesive system of specialized public educational opportunities in Delaware so that all families and their children can participate in those that meet their needs and interests.”

The Strategic Plan outlines specific strategies to address identified barriers with operational timelines for accomplishing this goal

Strategic Plan

for Specialized Public Educational Opportunities

Objective 1: To align different state laws, regulations, policies, guidelines, and timelines to maximize opportunities for families to participate in specialized educational opportunities.

Strategy 1: Compile and align state laws and any corresponding regulations for traditional and vocational technical school districts and charter schools (e.g., Certificate of Necessity, New Charter School Application process, transportation).

Rationale – Current laws and regulations may need to change in order to better align processes and to take into consideration the current environment. (e.g., CN process does not specifically take into account charter school enrollment)

Responsible party – DOE

Timeline – Complete by April 1, 2017

Strategy 2: Compile and align master list of timelines that govern school enrollment, choice, personnel employment decisions (hiring and firing), and fiscal decisions.

Rationale – Current timelines with varying processes do not necessarily align across purposes. (e.g., choice acceptance timelines and minimum enrollment verification deadline for new charter schools)

Responsible party – DOE

Timeline – Complete by April 1, 2017

Strategy 3: Develop codified definitions of the types of educational programs in Delaware (e.g., choice and magnet schools).

Rationale - These are needed to educate the public as to the differences between various educational programs

Responsible party – DOE and legislators with stakeholder input

Timeline – Complete by June 1, 2017

Strategic Plan

for Specialized Public Educational Opportunities (continued)

Objective 2: To minimize transportation barriers that prevent families from exercising choice options that meet their children's educational needs.

Strategy 1: Explore ways to minimize the transportation barriers for traditionally underserved families (e.g., low-income and rural families), who often do not have the means to get their children to hub stops or to the school itself.

Rationale – Removing transportation barriers will allow for equitable access in the school choice process

Responsible party - DOE, districts, charters and legislators

Timeline – Proposal complete by December 31, 2017

It is expected that there will be additional cost for implementation of this strategy.

Strategy 2: Consider additional funding for after-school activity buses so that more students can participate in extracurricular, academic enrichment and tutoring programs.

Rationale – Removing barriers with after-school transportation will allow for equitable access in the school choice process

Responsible party - DOE, districts, charters and legislators

Timeline – Proposal complete by December 31, 2017

It is expected that there will be additional cost for implementation of this strategy.

Strategy 3: Explore options to address school bus transportation issues (e.g., shortage of qualified bus drivers, limited number of bus companies) in order to build parental confidence and satisfaction in the school bus transportation system.

Rationale – Removing transportation barriers will allow for equitable access in the school choice process

Responsible party - DOE and stakeholders

Timeline – Proposal complete by December 31, 2017

It is expected that there will be additional cost for implementation of this strategy.

Strategic Plan

for Specialized Public Educational Opportunities (continued)

Objective 3: To strengthen data collection efforts to support the accurate and timely determination of educational programmatic needs across the state.

Strategy 1: Require all traditional and vocational technical school districts and charter schools in Delaware to utilize Data Service Center's choice portal for the management of school choice application data.

Rationale – This will ensure all schools provide equal access to the school choice process and create a uniform method for collecting school choice data.

Responsible party – Legislators

Timeline – Complete by June 30, 2017

It is expected that there may be additional cost for implementation of this strategy.

Strategy 2: Collect and analyze enrollment, school waiting lists, current labor market needs, and other data to regularly determine if schools are offering an appropriate and relevant mix of educational programs in traditional districts, vocational technical districts, and charter schools.

Rationale – This will allow for us to assess if existing programs are meeting the current demands and needs of our students.

Responsible party – DOE with stakeholders

Timeline – Annual Review on May 1

Strategic Plan

for Specialized Public Educational Opportunities (continued)

Objective 4: To encourage and incentivize traditional districts, vocational technical districts, and charter schools to meet gaps in educational programming that are identified across the state.

Strategy 1: Foster the development of informal and formal networks for all types of schools (preschool, traditional, charter, vo-tech, and higher education) in order to encourage the sharing of program knowledge, evidence-based best practices, research-based or promising practices and resources.

Rationale – More cooperation among educational agencies will allow for the possible replication or expansion of existing successful programs

Responsible party – Districts and charter schools in conjunction with others such as DOE, P-20 Council

Timeline – Ongoing and initiated no later than June 30, 2017

Strategy 2: Support the expansion of existing high demand/high quality programs such as Advanced Placement, Pathways, and Dual Enrollment Programs (credit-earning higher education courses for high school students) and World Language in our schools.

Rationale – Efforts should be made to expand popular, effective programs that are currently serving the needs of our students.

Responsible party – DOE, districts, charter schools, and legislature

Timeline – Proposal by December 31, 2017 and annual review on that date

It is expected that there will be additional cost for implementation of this strategy.

Strategic Plan

for Specialized Public Educational Opportunities (continued)

Objective 5: To increase outreach efforts to marginalized (low income, minority and rural) families to inform them of specialized public educational opportunities and resources to support these options.

Strategy 1: Increase outreach strategies to provide all families with relevant easy access to relevant and useful information regarding school performance, educational programs and opportunities, and navigation of the school choice process and community organization information relative to school choice.

Rationale- Too often, parents are confused about how to effectively navigate the choice process in Delaware.

Responsible party – Districts and charter schools and other stakeholders

Timeline – On or before June 30, 2017

Strategy 2: Utilize the work conducted by the Enrollment Preference Task Force (<http://udspace.udel.edu/handle/19716/17397>) in order to review and revise policies and practices that may contribute to marginalized access to schools of choice.

Rationale – Efforts need to be made in order to address real and/or perceived barriers to school enrollment by traditionally marginalized groups.

Responsible party – Legislators and stakeholders

Timeline – To be determined by legislators

Strategy 3: Consult the English Learner Strategic Plan in order to provide English Learners with high quality educational options.

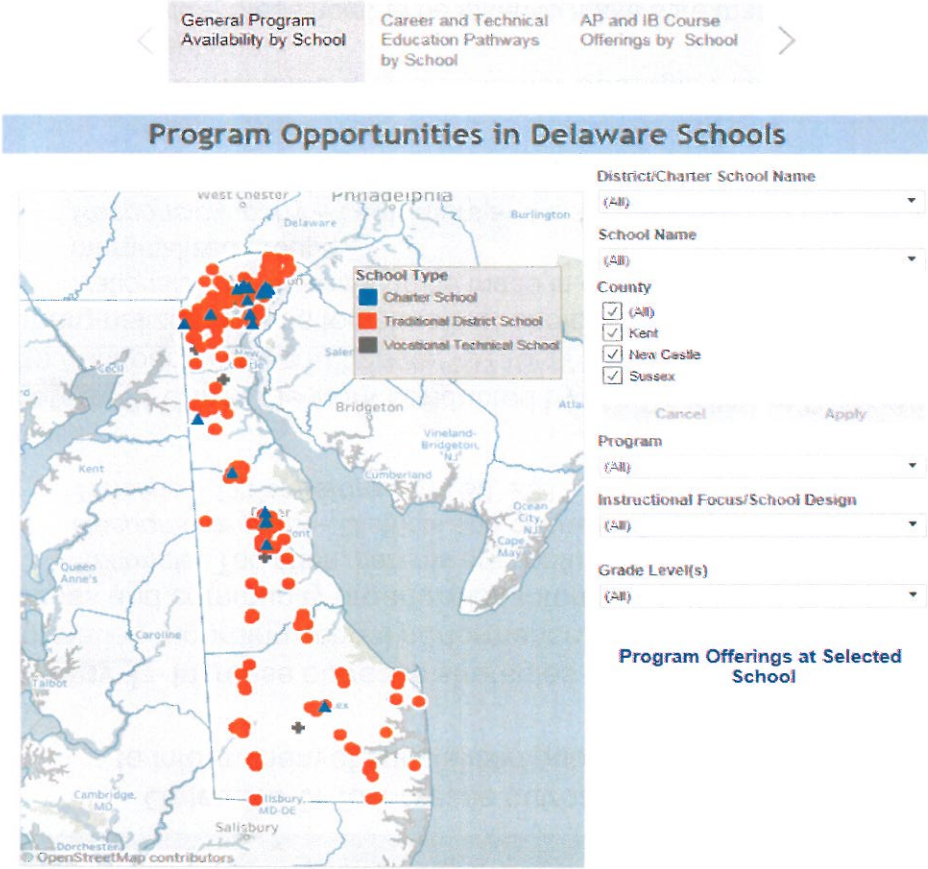
Rationale – Steps need to be taken to make sure that English Learners, who traditionally have been underrepresented as participants in school choice, are actively engaged in Delaware's school choice process.

Responsible party – Stakeholders

Timeline – Ongoing

Interactive Map

Educational Programming Options in Delaware Schools



Webpage and Links

The screenshot displays the official website of the Delaware Department of Education. The header includes the state logo and navigation links for Home, Search, and various user services. The main navigation bar lists categories such as Schools, Instruction, Supports, Educators, Accountability and Performance, and Data. The page title is "Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Education Opportunities". On the left, a sidebar lists "TASK FORCES" including Instructional Technology, Education Funding, Improving Outcomes, Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Education, and Governance. The main content area lists "Meetings" (Meeting #1 to #4) and "Minutes" (Meeting #1 to #4). Below these are "Supporting Materials" including House Bill 59, Guiding Questions, Enrollment Trends, PCG Reports, PCG Corresponding PowerPoint, Interactive Map, Certificate of Necessity and Surplus Building Process, Charter School Authorization Process, UP Enrollment Study, School Choice Information, Certificate of Necessity PowerPoint, Examples For Discussion - Allowable Transportation, Title 14 Del. C., Section 511 - Charter School Law, New Charter School Application, Enrollment Preferences Task Force Final Report, Choice Chart Data Powerpoint, 2013 Delaware Choice Application Data, Suggested Recommendations for Inclusion in the Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Education Opportunities, and DRAFT English Learner Strategic Plan Information.

State of Delaware
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Delaware
Department of Education

GOE Main | Schools | Instruction | Supports | Educators | Accountability and Performance | Data

ABOUT DOE | NEWS & NEWSLETTERS | PUBLIC INFORMATION | ERISA | GOVERNANCE

Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Education Opportunities

TASK FORCES
Instructional Technology
Education Funding
Improving Outcomes
Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Education
Governance

Meetings
Meeting #1 - October 25, 2016
Meeting #2 - November 9, 2016
Meeting #3 - November 30, 2016
Meeting #4 - December 21, 2016

Minutes
[Meeting #1 Minutes - Approved](#)
[Meeting #2 Minutes - Approved](#)
[Meeting #3 Minutes - Approved](#)
[Meeting #4 Minutes - Draft](#) (these minutes are included in the final report)

Supporting Materials
[House Bill 59 as amended by House Amendment 1](#)
[Guiding Questions](#)
[Enrollment Trends](#)
[PCG Report - October 25, 2016](#) - (Note: Because of changes to the Delaware General Assembly website not all embedded links are operational.)
[PCG Corresponding PowerPoint - October 25, 2016](#)
[PCG Report - December 17, 2016](#)
[PCG Corresponding PowerPoint - December 17, 2016](#)
[Interactive Map](#)
[Certificate of Necessity and Surplus Building Process](#)
[Charter School Authorization Process](#)
[UP Enrollment Study](#)
[School Choice Information](#)
[Certificate of Necessity PowerPoint - November 9, 2016](#)
[Examples For Discussion - Allowable Transportation](#)
[Title 14 Del. C., Section 511 - Charter School Law](#)
[New Charter School Application](#)
[Enrollment Preferences Task Force Final Report](#)
[Choice Chart Data Powerpoint](#)
[2013 Delaware Choice Application Data](#) - (Note: This document has been modified, from the version handed out at meeting, for further clarification)
[Suggested Recommendations for Inclusion in the Strategic Plan for Specialized Public Education Opportunities](#)
[DRAFT English Learner Strategic Plan Information](#)

Questions / Comments