

Appropriations

Salary increase of 4% for Teachers and Administrators, \$900 and a step for Paras, \$700 and a step for secretaries, custodians and food service.

Appropriated \$241.0 in Division I Formula Salaries to increase funding for Assistant Principals and provide fractional funding for school nurses. The school nurse funding will assist charter schools with small enrollments that traditionally would not qualify for nurse funding.

Appropriated \$4,611.4 for Phase II of full-day Kindergarten implementation. The total appropriation is \$7,611.4 and will provide full funding for full-day Kindergarten in eight school districts, eight charter schools and continue the funding of one pilot classroom in four school districts.

Appropriated \$5,720.6 in Division II – Energy to assist school districts in meeting the increased cost of energy due to de-regulation, for Division II – Energy unit value of \$2,513.

Appropriated \$1,799.8 in Division III – Equalization to implement the recommendations of the Equalization Committee including a hold harmless provision. Also appropriated \$388.5 in Division III – Equalization to provide Division III funding for school psychologists.

Appropriated \$632.4 in Math Specialists to expand the initiative to provide a math specialist in all middle schools. This funding will provide an additional 10 Math Specialists in Fiscal Year 2007 for a total of 32 statewide and a total appropriation of \$1,981.7

Appropriated \$208.4 in Personnel Costs for 2.0 positions at the Department of Education to enhance financial oversight and accountability of school districts.

Appropriated \$8,125.0 for projected unit growth of 125 Division I, II and III units in the 2006-2007 school year and \$2,436.2 in Division funding for 31 additional Division I and 24 additional Division II units over the budgeted amount for the 2005-2006 school year.

Appropriated \$12,333.4 in Public School Transportation to address formula changes including increased other employment cost rates, increased fuel costs, new bus engine requirements and increased demand in homeless student transportation. This appropriation also includes increasing the contract time given to bus contractors by 1 hour in Kent and Sussex counties and 30 minutes in New Castle County. Also appropriated one-time funding of \$966.8 in Office of Management and Budget, Contingencies and One-Time Items (10-02-11) for the purchase of 18 school buses.

Appropriated \$500.0 in Pupil Accounting to support the operation of E-school Plus in 18 school districts and 10 charter schools.

Appropriated \$300.0 in Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) for the development and purchase of additional test items.

Appropriated \$494.0 in Academic Excellence Block Grant to address projected unit growth.

Appropriated \$407.5 in Early Childhood Assistance to increase the per pupil amount to close the gap with the federal funding level.

Appropriated \$382.5 in Student Discipline for five new districts schools, four new charter schools and four schools with configuration changes.

(over)

Bills Passed and Signed by the Governor

House Bill 338 – Amends the Fiscal Year 2006 Bond and Capital Improvements Act by allowing DOE to transfer funding between major capital construction projects in order to meet changes in construction timetables. It also created a \$10 million School Construction Market Pressure fund.

Senate Bill 19 w/HA 1,3,4 - Prohibits towns, counties, or other municipalities from assessing impact fees and other one-time fees against district school construction projects.

Senate Bill 242 – Appropriates \$5 million to the State’s school districts and charter schools for energy cost increases.

Senate Bill 263 – Eliminates the Sunset provision applicable to the Professional Standards Board.

Senate Bill 289 w/SA 2 – Creates the Health Advisory Council to provide advice and guidance to DOE regarding current and future physical education and physical activity programs in Delaware schools.

Senate Bill 307 w/HA 3 – Makes a supplemental appropriation of \$20 million to the Office of Management and Budget to fund a recovery loan to the Christina School District.

Senate Bill 320 – Makes a change to the DSTP to be in compliance with the Federal No Child Left Behind Act. This includes the provision that the assessments in English Language Arts and mathematics are administered at least once in grades 3 through 8, and at least once at high school. It also makes changes to “offgrade” assessment.

Senate Bill 392 – Provides a supplemental appropriation of \$4,100,000 to create a Public Education Classroom Instruction Fund; \$600,000 for public school and charter school libraries; and \$3,500,000 to be allocated to school districts and charter schools based on Division I units for textbooks, library books, and instructional computers.

Bills Passed by Both Houses But Not yet Signed by the Governor

House Bill 367 w/HA 1 SA 4,5 – Authorizes Kent County to collect a surcharge in an amount not to exceed 1.25% of the construction value applicable to each building permit application to provide funding for school construction.

House Bill 372 – Requires DOE to develop a regulation requiring each local school district and charter school to assess the physical fitness of each student at least once in the elementary, middle, and high school level.

House Bill 471 – Provides for a physical education/physical activity pilot program in at least six elementary, middle, or high schools.

House Bill 485 w/HA 1,2, SA 1 – Creates a new felony level crime of recruiting or retaining juveniles or students in criminal street gangs or criminal youth gangs.

Senate Bill 251 w/SA 1, HA 1,2 – Requires school districts to offer any kindergarten-eligible child the option of attending full-day kindergarten if chosen by the child’s parent by the 2008-09 school year. Half-day would still be an option for parents.

Resolutions Passed

House Resolution 61 w/HA 2 – Creates a task force to promote coordination between special education students, their parents, teachers, district administrators, and the Department of Education.

House Resolution 62 w/HA 1 – Creates a task force to study and recommend legislative changes concerning conduct of school district referendums.

House Concurrent Resolution 42 – Establishes the Alternative Education Task Force to review alternative education possibilities that currently exist in other states and make recommendations to Delaware programs.

House Concurrent Resolution 46 w/SA 1 – Creates a task force on class size and unit count allocation in education.