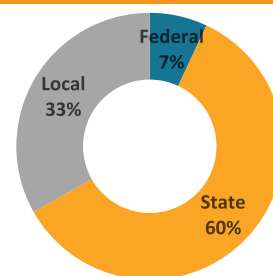


DELAWARE

AUTHORIZER TYPE(S)	State Education Agency Local Education Agency
LEGAL STATUS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	Local Education Agency
LINKAGE TO A TRADITIONAL DISTRICT	No Link
STATE SPECIAL ED FUNDING FORMULA	Resource based funding—Funding based on payment for a certain number of resources
% OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	15.15% (all public schools) 10.16% (charter schools)

DELEWARE
Revenue
Sources,
FY 2014



FY 2014	Spending Per Pupil
DELEWARE	\$13,938
US	\$11,009

*Sources on last page; click [here](#) for definitions

Charter School Funding

State funding for charter schools is based on the unit funding formula used for traditional public schools. Local funding is based on the previous year's per-pupil expenditure in a student's school district of residence.

Delaware allocates funding based on units. Units are based on the following student enrollment formulae:

- Preschool: 1 unit for 12.8 students
- Kindergarten-3: 1 unit for 16.2 students
- Grades 4-12 Regular Education: 1 unit for 20.0 students
- Grades 4-12: Basic Special Education: 1 unit for 8.4 students
- Pre K-12 Intensive Special Education: 1 unit for 6.0 students
- Pre K-12 Complex Special Education: 1 unit for 2.6 students

Units are generated LEA-wide but 98% must be allocated to schools that "earn" them via the student enrollment formulae above (unless waived in a public process by the local school board).

Unit funding is allocated in three categories: Division I (teachers and administrative positions), Division II (All Other Costs and Energy) and Division III (Equalization). These three components make up the state resources supporting a classroom.

Division I funding provides the state's portion of costs related to salaries and benefits for teachers and other staff. Based on the number of units generated by the formulae above, Division I funding supports a certain number of teaching positions. Division I funds are intended to provide approximately 70% of teacher salary with the balance provided by local funds and, at times, federal funds. For charters, the sending district's per-pupil expenditure from the prior year determines the amount of local funding charters receive.

Dollar amounts are based on the state salary schedule, where a first year teacher with a bachelor's degree earns \$28,281 (FY2016). New charters use this dollar amount to calculate funding, while established schools use their actual average salaries. Charter schools are not required to pay employees according to the state salary schedule.

(cont. on following page)

Charter School Funding (cont.)

In addition, administrative positions are generated as follows:

Positions	Earned
Principal	1 for each administrative unit in a school building or a combination of school buildings having 15 or more units of pupils
Director	1 for first full 200 units of pupils and 1 for each additional full 100 units not to exceed a total of 6
Secretary	1 for every 10 units of pupils for the first 100 units of pupils and 1 additional for every 12 full units of pupils
Nurses	1 for every 40 units of pupils
Driver Education Specialist	1 for every 125 10th grade students
Supervisor - Transportation	1 for each 7,000 or more transported students
Specialists for Children with Disabilities	Varies depending on the classification of the disability

Division II funding covers operating components of running a school system, such as materials and supplies, maintenance, utilities and contracts. For each Division I unit, a district earns a Division II unit. In FY2016, each Division II unit generated \$5,390 of funding. Vocational Programs generate additional Division II units depending on the nature of the program (2x or 3x) given the equipment necessary to operate vocational activities.

Division III funding acts as an equalizer to compensate districts in communities that cannot raise sufficient education funding through the local tax base. Note that due to budget constraints, the Division III formula has been frozen for several years.

Poor property tax districts receive a higher share of Division III funds than wealthier property tax districts. A charter school receives an amount that is determined by weighting the Division III per unit values that would have been generated by its students had they been counted in their district of residence.

Transportation. In addition to Division funding, the Delaware charter law provides funding for charter school transportation at 75% of the average cost per student for transporting students within the vocational district in which the charter is located. Each of the state’s three counties has a vocational district.

State Special Education Funding

As their own LEAs, charter schools are responsible for providing special education for their students. The state funds special education using a resource-based formula, and the law provides that charter schools are to be allocated both general and special education funds based on the same formula as other public schools.

Ratios differentiate for varying levels of student need.

- Grades 4-12: Basic Special Education: 1 unit for 8.4 students
- Pre K-12 Intensive Special Education: 1 unit for 6.0 students
- Pre K-12 Complex Special Education: 1 unit for 2.6 students

In addition, the state funds a number of special needs programs outside of the unit funding system:

- * **Unique Educational Alternatives** (\$8.9M) – the LEA submits an application to the Interagency Collaborative Team for children whose needs for special education and related services are not met by the LEA’s existing resources and programs. For costs not covered by existing funding lines, the state pays 70% and the LEA pays 30%.
- * **Related Services for the Handicapped** (\$2.9 M) – distributed via formula and provides additional support for students with disabilities (speech therapists, occupational therapists, etc.)

Local Special Education Funding/Services

In Delaware, the local tax rate has four components. The “tuition tax” component may be used by LEAs to fund the local share of preschool units, as well as PK-12 intensive and complex special education units. The sending district transmits to the charter school the appropriate local revenue based on the student and his or her accompanying needs.

Federal IDEA Part B Funding

IDEA, Part B—Section 611 is allocated to LEAs through a formula established by statute. The formula has three parts:

- A base payment;
- A population payment; and
- A poverty payment.

The base payment is the minimum amount of money the LEA is entitled to receive. In general, an LEA's base payment remains consistent from year-to-year.

LEAs apply for federal IDEA funds as part of Delaware's Consolidated Grant application.

High-Cost Funds

Delaware uses state and federal funds to support students with high-cost, low incidence disabilities.

State: Unique Educational Alternatives (\$8.9 million) – the LEA submits an application to the Interagency Collaborative Team for children whose needs for special education and related services are not met by the LEA's existing resources and programs. For costs not covered by existing funding lines, the state pays 70% and the LEA pays 30%.

Federal: (\$372,909) Delaware sets aside federal IDEA money for a high-cost fund.

Medicaid

School Based Health Services

The LEA must be the enrolled provider in order to be eligible for reimbursement for health-related services defined in the IEP or in the school health program. Reimbursement is coordinated through the Children's Services Cost Recovery Project (CSCR). Charter schools participate but the funds have decreased to almost nothing in recent years—one charter school leader noted that, over a several year period, his school's CSCR reimbursement had decreased from \$7,000 to \$50 in 2014-15.

References / Resources (cont.)

Reference sites

Delaware Department of Education

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/site/default.aspx?PageID=1>

Delaware Charter Schools Network

<http://www.decharternetwork.org/>

Funding links

Delaware School Finance 101

http://www.solutionsfordelawareschools.com/files/2015/08/education101_0915-169lbo.pdf

Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1703: Unit of pupils (special education)

<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c017/>

Delaware Administrative Code Title 14 Sec. 929 (3.0) Students in Need of Unique Educational Alternatives

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/900/929.shtml>

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools Dashboard

<http://www.publiccharters.org/law-database/fiscally-legally-autonomous-schools-independent-public-charter-school-boards/>

Delaware Department of Education: How IDEA Part B Funds can be used

<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/cms/lib09/DE01922744/Centricity/domain/232/performance%20mgmt/IDEA%20Funds%20Guidance-5-1-15.pdf>

High-cost links

Delaware Administrative Code Title 14 Sec. 929 (3.0) Students in Need of Unique Educational Alternatives

<http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title14/900/929.shtml>

Medicaid links

School Based Health Services

<https://www.dmap.state.de.us/downloads/manuals/School-Based.Services.Provider.Specific.pdf>

Departments/Organizations

Delaware Charter Schools Network

Sources for data on first page of report

Percentage of students with disabilities: U.S. Department of Education, Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) for the 2013-14 school year. Available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/crdc-2013-14.html>

Federal, state, and local revenue sources & spending per pupil: United States Census Bureau, Annual Survey of School System Finances. Available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>