



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 12, 2018

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Jamie Wolfe, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: SB 172 with SA 1 School Funding Transparency

The proposed legislation was Reported Out of the House Education Committee on 5/9/18. This bill requires DDOE to develop a standardized statewide approach to the collection of data related to per pupil expenditures. The bill then requires DDOE to report per pupil expenditures at the school level on online individual school report cards, and on downloadable statewide data files that allow individuals to draw comparisons between schools. These reports also include other information such as average teacher salaries, demographics such as rates of English learners, students living in poverty and numbers of special education students.

The DDOE is required to include community involvement in developing standardized approaches and must hold at least three public meetings. They are obligated to include a broad range of advocates and interested stakeholders, including a representative of the teacher's union and of the GACEC (per SA 1).

The stated goal of the statewide standardization of data collection and the reporting requirements is to force the DDOE to report this information at the school level in a public manner. With this information, the goal is to ascertain which schools are getting more or less support, to ensure funding to schools according to need and to learn ways to allocate resources more effectively.

The SCPD endorses the proposed legislation in order that the public and, more importantly, decision makers will have the data needed to fund Delaware's schools in a fair manner and address inequities in funding at specific schools that have led to disparate outcomes for students of color, English learners and students living in poverty.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq.
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

SB 172 with SA 1 school funding transparency 6-12-18