

## Education Committee

### Proposed Legislative Agenda for 152<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2024)

#### Current

- **Senate Substitute 1 for State Bill 270** will establish a evaluation and assessment system for the Delaware Department of Education which would help school districts determine whether a school facility is in good condition.
- **HB 290-** This Act removes a barrier to higher education by allowing a student who has been convicted of a violent felony to qualify for or maintain eligibility for a SEED scholarship if other eligibility criteria are met.
- **House Bill 263** prohibits local education agencies and charter schools from prohibiting a student from participating in a school sponsored extracurricular activity on the basis the student has an outstanding debt for unpaid school meals.
- **Senate Bill 187** would help Delaware schools recruit qualified candidates into the teaching profession by helping to ensure that the salary calculations for future Delaware educators are based on all of the advanced degrees they have earned prior to the initial date of hire. Already **PASSED** the Senate – heading to the house.  
**Senate Bill 188** would make Delaware the 12th state to join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC), an occupational licensing agreement that would make the teaching licenses of qualified candidates from a variety of backgrounds more readily transferable from one state to another Already **PASSED** the Senate – heading to the house.

#### The Education Committee will keep an Eye on areas of support for the following:

- Possible proposal to create a new 4-year degree for those who want to be mental health professionals in schools.
- Homelessness among young people in schools and undocumented children that cannot be registered in schools
- Need a policy to address/increase programs for gifted children in low-income and/or urban areas.
- Book/Media Bans in schools
- Safe water in schools

**Bills we were supporting passed at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 152<sup>nd</sup>.**

- **House Bill 188** would codify a Delaware Public Education Equity Ombudsperson Program to advocate on behalf of students and families who encounter systemic inequities, discrimination, and other forms of mistreatment in the public school system based on their socio-economic status. HB 188 also would create an Educational Equity Council made up of community members, educators, and elected officials to provide input and oversight into the Equity Ombudsperson Program as it works to help school districts resolve disputes, adopt best practices, and remove barriers for students of color and other federally protected classes.
- **SB 9** - This Act creates such a system, including: (1) Creating a system by which all properties where a child who is found to have high blood lead levels live are promptly screened for lead-based paint and, where that paint is found, treated to abate or remediate the lead-based paint. (2) Prohibiting landlords of properties where the State has paid for lead-based paint abatement from raising rents on those properties for a period of 3 years. (3) Taking steps to ensure that neither landlords nor local governments present unreasonable delays to the abatement of lead-based paint. (4) Creating a dedicated fund for abatement and remediation of lead-based paint hazards so that all levels of state government can be held accountable for funding lead-based paint abatement efforts. (5) Expanding the duties of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Committee to include a plan for prompt inspection and, where necessary, abatement or remediation of lead-based paint in all pre-1978 rental properties
- **HJR 1** - Development of a statewide mentoring system which would include a single statewide website for school mentoring and necessary infrastructure that will be needed to run a top-quality mentoring program
- **SB 156** Provides teachers who previously worked as paraprofessionals in the schools to receive partial credit towards their experience on the teacher salary scale for their time working within the schools as paraprofessionals.