



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR SB172 PUBLIC HEARINGS ON EDUCATION FUNDING

**What Is It?** Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, Delaware must report data on per-pupil spending at each public school in the state. SB172 additionally requires that Delaware districts and charters report this information consistently and comparably, and requires public input to ensure the reporting is meaningful for all stakeholders.

**Why Does This Matter?** This information — *if calculated and collected well* — will allow all taxpayers and parents to understand their schools' spending and resources. It will help education leaders make decisions and learn from each other. It will help advocates to identify and fuel efforts to eliminate inequities. *But none of these things will be possible if the data aren't collected and reported well, and if the community doesn't voice its priorities.*

Suggested questions to ask about SB172 implementation:	Look for these requirements:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. How can we make sure data are calculated and reported commonly so that we can <b>compare schools across different districts, as well as compare charter schools to district schools</b>?</li><li>2. What rules are in place to make sure we get the <b>most accurate picture of each school's resources</b>, including their share of central office expenditures?</li><li>3. How will <b>central office expenditures</b> be reported? For instance, how will districts know how to report educators that work at multiple schools, or shared curriculum and programs?</li><li>4. How will the Delaware Department of Education <b>train and support all districts and charters</b> to follow the common rules for reporting information? How will the DDOE ensure data are accurate?</li><li>5. Will the DDOE make the <b>draft statewide business rules public for review</b> and input after these hearings, before they are finalized? How is DDOE ensuring it receives <b>input from all required stakeholder groups</b>?</li><li>6. Will the DOE publish <b>draft data visuals and partner with community groups to hold public meetings</b> to get additional input before publically reporting the data?</li></ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Federal funding must be reported separately than state and local</li><li>• The per-pupil spending calculation must include all expenses related to educating preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade student. Districts and charters must note which expenses are excluded.</li><li>• The report for each school must include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Each school's site level expenditures (the dollars actually tracked to the school)</li><li>○ Each school's "share" of central office expenditures</li><li>○ Each school's "grand total" of "a" and "b"</li></ul></li><li>• There must be clear guidance on defining "school site" versus "central office" expenditures including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Personnel who work in schools at least 80% of time must be reported as school-site expense with actual, not average salary costs</li><li>– Central office expenditures must be divided according to student enrollment or time spent in each school</li><li>– Charter schools without central offices must report everything as school-site expense to allow for fair comparisons with districts</li></ul></li></ul>

For more information, [check out this presentation](#) from the Delaware Education Funding Summit.

