



## Moving Delaware's schools to the top requires focus

March 31, 2010

When it comes to education in Delaware, the goal is a world-class school system.

Monday's award of \$100 million of federal Race to the Top money to Delaware is designed to do just that. By no means should it be diverted to fix current fiscal problems.

Delaware was awarded the money on the strength of its proposal to revamp the state's education system. The money should be used to push those programs that are intended to lift every Delaware student to a higher level. These programs include incentives for high-performing schools and data coaches to help teachers use a growing body of academic information to guide students' progress. A lot of this is new and different. It is meant to push the state's standards and the students' performance higher. It is not meant to maintain the status quo in our schools.

That's why members of the General Assembly and other interested parties should see to it that the state follows the plan and there is no attempt to water it down by using the money elsewhere.

Consider this: Race to the Top is offering states \$4.3 billion as incentives to push schools forward. Only Delaware and Tennessee have won money so far.

Why? One big reason is commitment to the idea behind the competition. New York Gov. David Paterson, for example, saw the race as a handout, a way "to help pay some of the bills." Backfilling budget gaps will not foster innovation. Using the money for its intended purpose will.

Advertisement



Print Powered By FormatDynamics™