

What Will “Race to the Top” Mean to You?

When U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced Delaware’s success in winning \$100 million for public education, he said,

“This isn’t about funding nice pilot programs. It’s about taking student success to entirely new levels and doing it at scale. What is so impressive about Delaware and Tennessee, and why they scored so well, is that their plans touched 100 percent of students in their states.”

So, how will you—as a Delaware student, teacher, school leader, or parent—benefit?

Students will benefit from...

- New, higher standards that will better prepare you for college and the workplace...when you meet these standards, you know you’ll be able to compete with any student anywhere in the world.
- Online tests that are interactive and taken several times throughout the year, giving you and your teachers timely information about how you can improve in subjects where you’re struggling and recognize where you excel.
- Free SAT tests for all 11th graders so that every student in Delaware, regardless of income, has access to these all-important college admissions tests.
- More science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses — with opportunities for hands-on learning alongside experienced industry experts and university faculty.
- Teachers who have received increased training to make classes interesting, relevant, and challenging.

Teachers will benefit from...

- New online assessments and web-tools to help you benchmark your students’ progress and provide them with tailored help throughout the year.
- In-depth training in the new standards and tests, plus grade-level curriculum tools that give you more practical guidance on how to help your students master the new standards.
- Data coaches to help you use the wealth of new information on student performance to adjust your instruction to meet the needs of each of your students.
- A new evaluation system so that principals can give you more constructive, professional, and timely feedback on your work, using multiple, fair measures of teacher effectiveness and student growth.
- Extra pay for Teacher-Leaders who take on additional responsibilities in schools, such as mentoring new teachers or developing curriculum.

- Opportunities for highly effective teachers in STEM subjects to mentor other teachers and receive stipends.
- Ongoing support to leadership teams in Vision Network schools, focused on building even greater knowledge, skills and confidence to help your students learn at high levels.
- And for prospective teachers:
 - More active outreach and an online application site that makes it easier for interested educators to find a spot in Delaware schools.
 - Teacher residencies in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to help career professionals make a smoother transition to the classroom.

Principals and school leaders will benefit from...

- New alternative routes to certification through nationally recognized training programs.
- Additional leadership training to further improve student achievement and build effective teams.
- School Administration Management (SAM) supports to handle operational issues like buses and buildings so you can focus on providing instructional leadership.
- Coaches to help you implement the new teacher evaluation system.
- Easy access to data on schools, districts, and charter schools through new Education Dashboard Portals.
- Ongoing support to principals and leadership teams in Vision Network schools, focused on building even greater knowledge, skills and confidence to help your students learn at high levels.

Educators working in high-need schools and hard-to-staff subjects...

- Extra pay and/or bonuses for highly effective teachers and principals who transfer into high-need schools.
- Retention bonuses for highly effective teachers and principals in high-need schools and subject areas, such as math, science, and special education.
- Expanded teacher preparation and alternative routes to teacher certification, such as The New Teacher Project, which will train mid-career professionals to teach in high-need schools.
- Intensive, year-long training program to prepare leaders to work in high-need schools.
- Academic Achievement Awards for qualifying schools that significantly close achievement gaps or exceed their improvement goals two years in a row. The award can be used for bonuses to teachers, additional professional opportunities and other benefits, more school supplies, facilities upgrades, or other purposes.

- Intensive additional supports and resources, plus more flexible work rules, for the state's lowest-performing schools.

Parents and communities will benefit from...

- More challenging standards that will ensure that your children are prepared to compete with any student in the world — whether it's for admission into selective colleges or for great jobs.
- Online tools that let you know how your children are doing — where they need to improve and how they measure up to others in the state and nation.
- A new statewide data system that enables educators, policymakers, parents, and the public to monitor the performance of every school — and use the information to make better choices for their children and better understand how their tax dollars are being spent.