

# Increasing Transparency in Education Funding

**Delaware spends more than a billion dollars a year on education**

\$ **1 000 000 000**

*"Delaware's [education funding system] is very **complex**. It doesn't allow for flexibility in the new areas where education is now being taken."*

-Mike Griffith,  
Education Commission of the States

It's nearly **impossible** to evaluate the spending or the impact of our investments.

- ◇ Does my child's elementary school receive more funds than other schools in the district?
- ◇ Does your district allocate its funds equitably across schools?
- ◇ Does your school use its funds wisely?

**WE CAN'T ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS**



Funding system is more than 80-year old



Does not respond to the number of children in poverty and learning English



Indecipherable to citizens and taxpayers

## Solutions

Federal law requires the state to report by school—but we need more than what the law requires.

Better school level financial reporting will:

- ◇ Help school board, district and state leaders make decisions, set benchmarks, and focus on **results**
- ◇ Help schools learn from each other's **best practices**
- ◇ Enable **taxpayers** and parents to engage in the decision-making

The Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee (DBREC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that includes representatives from 15 Delaware Business Roundtable member organizations.

The mission of DBREC is to improve public education in Delaware by aggregating and aligning the resources of Roundtable members and other business leaders.

## Act Now

Delaware will be at a long-term disadvantage and will not produce a dynamic, prepared workforce if we cannot fix the systemic problems in our funding system.

**Support legislation to improve fiscal transparency** in public schools that requires DOE issue data that are:

- ◇ **Comparable** across district and charter schools across the state
- ◇ Reported at **school and district levels**
- ◇ Presented with **student outcome data to focus on results**
- ◇ Easily **understood by taxpayers and policymakers**