

January 27, 20



Raising our Game

In his third State of the State address, Governor Jack Markell asked Delawareans to keep working together to make progress on the state's critical issues, including education. He stressed the importance of education in the The First State's economic recovery, citing current and future employers' interest in having strong schools from which the next generation of employees will come.

The Governor stressed how important it is for Delaware students to be able to compete successfully on a global level. He said, "It's as though kids in Delaware and across the country have essentially been practicing basketball on an 8-foot-high rim. But kids around the world have been practicing on a hoop 10 feet high. Our kids may be good at hitting those 8-foot shots – but the game is

College Quest

The Red Clay Consolidated School District will host its 2nd annual College Fair on **Thursday February 3** at Conrad Schools of Science from 6:15PM to 8:15PM in the school gymnasium.

This free event is open to students from all districts and is designed for secondary students and their parents to learn about planning for college or other post-secondary training after graduation. Counselors will facilitate informational sessions on selecting a school, the application process, and financial aid. Representatives from regional colleges, universities, and technical schools will be available to provide information about their programs.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Vision Network Spotlight

When Doug Brown started his first job as a principal at Lake Forest School District's [W. T. Chipman Middle School](#) in Harrington, he knew that he, like other principals, had a lot of work ahead of him. As principal, it is his responsibility to set a course for the school academically, and to know how to get

played at a higher level. So when we tell our kids they are proficient based on an assessment that is used only within our borders, but then they must compete with students outside of our borders used to making the harder shot, then we're not being very honest with them."

Governor Markell highlighted the state's Race to the Top plan, which ranked #1 in the nation. A key element is the state's adoption of the Common Core Standards, which are internationally benchmarked against high performers in other countries. Other elements of the plan include:

- The implementation of the new student test, DCAS, which will measure student growth throughout the year and provide timely and useful feedback to teachers and parents;
- The development of measures of student growth in every subject area so teacher evaluations can be linked fairly with what all students learn in the classroom;
- More time for teachers to collaborate with their colleagues and to work with data coaches in interpreting student data and developing strategies to address identified needs;
- More Advanced Placement courses; and
- Incentive pay to attract highly effective teachers to high-need schools.

The Governor said, "In the last two years, Delaware established itself as The First State when it comes to education reforms. Now, we're working to make Delaware The First State when it comes to education results."

[Click here](#) to read the entire State of the State address.

U.S. Education Dashboard

President Obama has established a goal that by 2020 the United States will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world. Reaching the President's goal will require comprehensive education reforms from cradle to career.

To monitor the country's progress toward this goal, the U.S. Department of Education developed the [United States Education Dashboard](#). Similar to the dashboard on a car, the *United States Education Dashboard* shows what the department considers important indicators of how the nation and each state are progressing on the outcomes necessary to achieve the national goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

things done—not an easy job when you also have to run school operations and address urgent, unplanned events throughout the day. Through the [Vision Network](#), Mr. Brown has acquired more tools to help him focus his energy and realize his vision for Chipman.

"I am fortunate to have a very strong leadership team, and the Vision Network made them even stronger by providing years' worth of knowledge to help us reach our goals."

This past year, Mr. Brown, with guidance from Vision Network partners, analyzed data that helped clearly identify "special education" as an area in which Chipman was falling behind. Working with the Vision Network and his leadership team, Mr. Brown devised a creative plan.

"We created a baseball team where each student is a player and each student has his or her own baseball card," explained Mr. Brown. The cards, which are made for students who have demonstrated academic difficulty, contain a student's "player stats"—how well the student is doing each subject area. This allows teachers to better understand the individual needs of each student. This not only gives teachers valuable information on the children they teach, but also creates a fun learning environment. [Teachers wear baseball jerseys](#), which further underscores the school theme and builds energy and excitement around it. Mr. Brown and other educators at Chipman are very proud of their students' new found excitement about learning.

Mr. Brown says that the Vision Network was his greatest asset during his first year of school leadership. "We should be working together across the state to share ideas and make education better, and the Vision Network makes this possible."

New Charter Schools Proposed

At the January meeting of the Delaware State Board of Education applications for four new charter schools were approved to move forward for additional consideration.

The proposed new charter schools under consideration include:

- **The New Maurice J. Moyer Academy**, which would be located in the same Wilmington building that housed Moyer Academy, which lost its charter last year. The applicant for the new charter is K12 Inc., the same charter school management firm contracted by the state to oversee the

The *Dashboard* is meant to spur and inform conversations about how to improve educational results – conversations among families, teachers, administrators, policy-makers, the business community, and other interested stakeholders.

[Click here](#) to see the Dashboard. The First State shows promise in some areas, yet there is still considerable room for improvement to reach [Vision 2015's goal](#) of providing access to a world-class public education to each and every student in Delaware.

Legislative Session Off and Running

Kicking off the new legislative session, the Delaware House of Representatives, passed a bill to ensure that Delaware does not lose \$33 million in annual federal education money. House Bill 1, sponsored by Rep. Terry Schooley, organizes needs-based educational funding for children with special needs. Instead of being lumped into categories, students will be grouped by their specific needs. Delaware has authorized needs-based funding through budget epilogue language, but putting it into the Delaware Code ensures that federal funding will continue. Representative Schooley noted that school districts have found that the system "provides much more flexible spending" and better meets children's needs.

The bill goes to the State Senate where it is expected to pass. [Click here](#) for more details about the first week of the legislative session.

Data Coaching

The Delaware Department of Education has contracted with [Wireless Generation](#) to provide data coaching services to all schools statewide as proposed in the winning Race to the Top plan. Data Coaches will help teachers build capacity in using data to drive effective instruction for students.

Job Postings

[Data Coaching – Project Manager](#)
[Data Coaching](#)
[Delaware Teaching Fellows – Program Manager](#)
[Delaware Teaching Fellows – Site Manager](#)
[Education Associate-Math Assessment](#)

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school this academic year. The school would continue to serve grades 6-12.

- **First State Math and Science Academy** would focus on math, science and technology. In the 2012-13 school year, it would open to 200 students in grades 6 and 7, and would enroll up to 500 students in grades 6 to 10 by the 2015-16 school year.
- **Delaware Institute of Technology** would be a college preparatory school that offers students a focus in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The school would open in 2012-13 with 180 students in grades 9 and 10, and would eventually have 510 students in grades 9 to 12.
- **I Am Academy Leadership & Technical Institute** would open initially to 400 students in grades six to nine, and would grow to 1,060 students in grades 6 to 12.

The Delaware Department of Education will continue to examine each of these charter applications and make a recommendation to the State Board in April about those that should receive final approval.

Currently, there are 19 charter schools in Delaware. Three new schools will open in August: [Delaware Academy for Public Safety and Security](#), [Gateway Lab School](#), and [Las Americas ASPIRA Academy](#).

Newark Charter Celebrates

[Newark Charter School](#) celebrated its 10th Anniversary and 2010 Blue Ribbon School Award with a gala event held at the school on January 12, 2011. Guest speakers included Delaware Governor Jack Markell, Congressman John Carney, and U.S. Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary Massie Ritsch.

Gregory Meece, School Director said, "We can all be very proud of the children, parents, teachers and staff who make up the Newark Charter School community. Receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award in the tenth anniversary of our charter being approved is a reminder of how far we've come."

AP Summer Institute

Registration is now open for the Delaware Department of Education's AP Summer Institutes. The AP Summer Institutes are subject-specific professional development opportunities. They provide teachers with the support and training needed to teach AP courses and to utilize Pre-AP teaching strategies. Teachers come together at these institutes to exchange ideas and information

friend.

Contact us!

For more information on how to become involved with Vision 2015, please visit our web site, <http://www.vision2015delaware.org>, or e-mail us at info@vision2015delaware.org.

about AP courses and exams.

For more information, [click here](#).

Did You Know?

This week celebrates National School Choice Week. National School Choice promotes effective education options for every child. [Click here](#) to see the events around the country celebrating school choice.


