

Education

Goal

Increase Delawareans' chances to enjoy healthy lives through education and literacy.

Objectives

1. By 2010, decrease the high school drop out rate from 4.1% to a target of 3.4%. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 7-1]
2. (Developmental) By 2010, increase literacy in adults. [Relates to Healthy People 2010 objective 7-1, 11-2]
3. By 2010, increase high school attendance rates from 91.3% to 93.4%.

Important roles for each sector*

Business

- Adopt workplace policies to support parental involvement in schools, participate in mentoring or tutoring programs, and support employees in furthering their education.

Community

- Collaborate with schools to offer more after school programs, prevent students from dropping out, and help parents communicate with teachers.

Health Care

- Help identify conditions that impair educational attainment and serve as mentors for youth.

Education

- Provide alternative programs to help populations with lower educational attainment, identify and assist children at-risk, and develop community strategies to increase parent involvement.

Government

- Create partnerships to increase after school and day care programs, evaluate and promote effective education strategies, and adopt exemplary employee education policies.

Notes:

The numeral assignment of each objective does not indicate priority, simply enumeration.

“Developmental” objectives are those that currently do not have state baseline data and, therefore, have no operational definitions. The purpose of developmental objectives is to identify areas of emerging importance and to drive the development of data systems to measure them.



Healthy Delaware Hero

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DaimlerChrysler and the United Auto Workers (UAW)



DaimlerChrysler and the United Auto Workers (UAW) work in tandem to increase the quality of life for workers at their Wilmington plant and in the community at large. Onsite college courses are available to

degree-seeking employees and free educational classes (computers, GED, high school) are available to plant workers as well as to citizens in the community. Educational assistance and tuition reimbursement are also available. "Working together, great things can be accomplished for workers, their families and the community," said Richard LeGates, co-director of the DaimlerChrysler Community Health Initiative. "We are proud of our programs to promote healthy behaviors - especially our workplace clearinghouse of health promotional information and our worksite exercise facilities."

Resources (General)

- Delaware Education Research and Development Center, University of Delaware, (302) 831-4433, fax (302) 831-4438, www.rdc.udel.edu - policy briefs and reports on education in Delaware
- Delaware Parent Education Resource Center, (302) 762-8989, fax (302) 762-8983, www.childinc.com/serviceB.htm - clearinghouse of resources, workshops, programs, newsletter about involving families in children's education
- Delaware State Parent Advisory Council - Title 1 advocacy
- Department of Education, (302) 739-4661, fax (302) 739-4654, www.doe.state.de.us - technical assistance
- Parent Early Education Center, Inc.æeducational information
- Parent Information Center of Delaware, (302) 366-0152, fax (302) 366-0276, www.picofdel.org - information to help parents advocate for the education of children with disabilities

The mentioning of specific programs does not connote endorsement and was not meant to be exclusionary. We apologize for any unintentional omissions; please bring these to our attention.

Closing the Gap

The high school dropout rate in Delaware began to fall in the late 1980's and was the lowest in 1991. Since then, the rate has been slowly increasing. The recent increase is most pronounced in minority populations.

Students are more likely to drop out when they are poor or when they come from single parent homes. In Delaware, the highest dropout rates are for Hispanic (6.9%) and African – American (5.2%) children. White and Asian children have the lowest dropout rate, 3.9% and 1.3% respectively. Approximately 60% of dropouts are male. More than 80% of students who drop out are over age for their grade in school.

Delaware provides funding for comprehensive early childhood services for four year old children whose families are at or below 100% of the poverty level to complement existing Head Start programs that ensure opportunities for preschool education are eligible for all children. Approximately 91% of four year olds eligible for Head Start or the Early Childhood Assistance program participated in 1998 –1999.

