



# Delaware's State Funding System is HOLDING OUR STUDENTS BACK

When students are provided the opportunity and support they need, they can succeed.

Delaware's funding system was developed in the World War II era...before computers and desegregation.



Delaware is one of only a few states where funding is not allocated based on student needs, to follow the student (with the exception of special education). Delaware is also one of only a handful of states that does not provide additional resources to meet the needs of English learners and students in poverty.

Stories of students throughout Delaware—just like Aidan, Caitlin, and Miguel—demonstrate how our antiquated system is holding today's students back.

## MIGUEL

**AGE: 15 • 9TH GRADE**

Miguel and his family just moved to America from Guatemala. They are working on their English, but so far they speak and understand very little. Miguel had no formal schooling before he moved to the U.S.

### HOW THE SYSTEM IS HOLDING HIM BACK:

His school receives no additional resources when he enrolls as an English learner student.

The state does not require teachers of students learning English to be certified, so they are often with a paraprofessional with limited expertise—if they get any extra support at all.

His district has placed him in a separate environment with other non-English speakers, lower expectations, and a very limited curriculum focused on English. He gets fewer opportunities than students in a traditional high school in courses, electives, and activities and is not expected to graduate until age 21.

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## CAITLIN

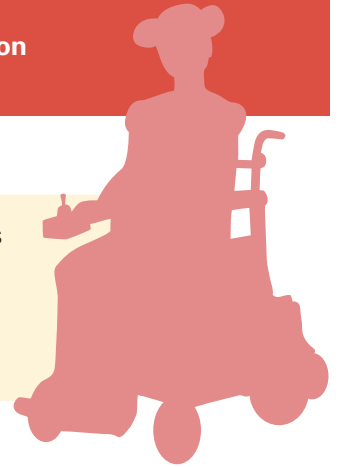
### AGE: 8 • 3RD GRADE

Caitlin is a complex special education student, meaning she has the highest classification of needs. The state-provided services to which she is entitled cost \$29,000 per year.

#### HOW THE SYSTEM IS HOLDING HER BACK:

Caitlin's family moved into another school district in October to a house that fits her ongoing physical needs.

In Delaware, funds are allocated based on where students are enrolled on September 30, so the funds that help pay for Caitlin's special education won't follow her to her new school, unless they can get the previous school to agree to transfer them.



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## AIDEN

### AGE: 16 • 10TH GRADE

Aiden completed his high school math and language requirements. He even qualifies for dual-enrollment college math courses.

#### HOW THE SYSTEM IS HOLDING HIM BACK:

Aiden can't afford the university and district fees for college-level math classes.

He wants to take an additional language course online, but he can't afford that either.

No state or districts funds are provided for these purposes, and funds for the year have been allocated without much flexibility. If he's fortunate, his district may cover costs. But many cannot.



The time is **NOW** for Delaware to update its funding system to increase transparency, efficiency, and equity, while giving schools and districts more autonomy and flexibility to make spending decisions that will have the greatest impact on students.

Visit [www.educationequityde.org](http://www.educationequityde.org) to find out more.