



Regional Guide

DELAWARE



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Teaching in Delaware

Delaware Schools

Delaware has a history of pride, boldness and a commitment to innovation as the “First State” to approve the U.S. Constitution in 1787. This same bold approach has helped to launch Delaware to the forefront of our nation’s education reform conversation. In 2005, a collection of educators, parents, and community and business leaders across the state came together to shape Vision 2015, a statewide, systemic turnaround plan that sets out to create “world-class schools for every Delaware student. No exceptions, no excuses.” In 2010, Delaware submitted the top-ranked Race to the Top application and became one of the first two states chosen for federal Race to the top Funding. Delaware was chosen because of its bold approach, its clarity, and its potential to reshape our nation’s thinking on public education.

The state’s leadership—including Governor Jack Markell, Secretary of Education Mark Murphy, and state and national legislatures—are deeply committed to this vision for excellence for all children growing up in Delaware, and their commitment is matched by many local business leaders, educators, parents, and community leaders. There is no question that Delaware—with its small scale, strong leadership, and recent progress in closing the achievement gap at an aggregate level—is poised for significant, historic education reform.



More information about
Delaware public schools

Delaware Department of Education
<http://www.doe.k12.de.us/>

Delaware Education Initiative: Vision 2015
<http://www.vision2015delaware.org/>

Delaware Educator Data System
Licensing and Certification Homepage
<https://deeds.doe.k12.de.us/default.aspx>

Teaching in Delaware

Our Impact in Delaware

Consider this: there are more students in the School District of Philadelphia (155,000) than in the entire state of Delaware (126,000—49% of which are low-income). Furthermore, every public school-age child in Delaware can fit in the Dover International Speedway and leave 15,000 seats to spare. If we can't figure out this problem in Delaware, then where will it happen?

Yet, Delaware is a textbook example of an area in severe need, one that often is overlooked in favor of bigger cities which receive a disproportionate share of resources.

DELAWARE FACTS AND FIGURES

Population: 897,000

Ethnic breakdown: 68.9% Caucasian and/or European immigrant; 21.4% African-American and/or African immigrant; 8.2% Hispanic-American and/or Hispanic immigrant; 3.2% Asian-American and/or Asian immigrant

Size: 1,982 square miles

Economy: 8.1% unemployment; 11.2% poverty

Education: Delaware Public Schools serve nearly 126,000 students and employ 8,300 teachers in 19 districts

LEARN MORE

Websites:

The News Journal of Wilmington, Delaware

<http://www.delawareonline.com>

The Dover Post of Dover, Delaware

<http://www.doverpost.com>

Rodel Foundation of Delaware Blog

<http://www.rodelfoundationde.org/blog/>

Books and Articles:

Politics of School Desegregation: The Metropolitan Remedy in Delaware

By Jeffrey Raffel

Choosing Equality: Essays and Narratives on the Desegregation Experience

By Leland Ware and Robert L. Hayman, Jr.

There is a significant and deeply-rooted achievement gap along racial and socioeconomic lines in Delaware. While a relatively small percentage of Delaware students drop out of high school, only 70% of the state's nearly 60,000 black and Latino students finish high school. And, chances are, if you are one of the 20,000 black males growing up in Delaware, you are much less likely than your white male counterparts to finish high school. In 2008 only 50% of the state's black males finished high school, and four times as many white males as black males in the state were allowed to take advanced placement courses in mathematics and science. Furthermore, only 42% of all Delaware high school graduates actually enroll in college. *For students of color, that number is closer to 1 in 10.* This academic achievement gap plays out even more profoundly at places like Warner Elementary, where only 8% of students (100% of which are black or Latino) achieved a proficiency level of 3 or 4 in both reading and math—an indicator that students of color or growing up in poverty in Delaware are on a much different trajectory than their white, higher-income peers.

Living in Delaware

Overview

Delaware offers a variety of excellent places to live. Two major cities commonly chosen are Wilmington, where many businesses and nonprofits are headquartered and located, and Dover, the capital, which is a smaller city but houses the Delaware Department of Education and state leadership. While public transportation exists, for most it is convenient if not essential to have a car, but many also take advantage of the close restaurants, cafes, and parks reachable by foot.

Whatever your preferences, you are sure to find a place to live in Delaware that is right for you. Individuals with roommates can expect to pay somewhere in the range of \$500-\$700 per person per month. Those preferring to live in single housing find their housing often falls in the \$700-\$800 per month range.

Expenses

Living expenses in Delaware are generally less than most major cities across the country, especially because the state does not charge sales tax. This translates to an extra 5-10% in annual disposable income. Restaurants and entertainment generally cost less as well.

Getting Around Delaware

With its prime location on the eastern seaboard, Delaware features a variety of convenient transportation options. Wilmington lies directly along I-95, the major interstate running the length of the east coast. In addition, the Wilmington train station is easily accessible and provides Amtrak service to areas across the northeast. The train station also lies along the SEPTA (<http://www.septa.org/>) regional rail line, which provides affordable rail service to and from Philadelphia. The Philadelphia International Airport is the major airport serving the area. Wilmington and the vicinity is served by the DART bus system (<http://www.dartfirststate.com/>).

Travel Times from Wilmington (by car)	
Philadelphia	40 min
Dover	1 hour
Baltimore	1 hr. 20 min.
Delaware Beaches	1 hr. 45 min.
Washington, D.C.	2 hrs. 15 min.
New York City	2 hrs. 30 min.



Living in Delaware



Trolley Square

Neighborhood surrounding the intersection of Delaware Avenue and DuPont Street

Trolley Square is one of the most popular neighborhoods in downtown Wilmington, particularly for young people. The neighborhood has a diverse mix of unique stores, charming homes, and inviting restaurants.



Mid-Town Brandywine

On the southern shore of the Brandywine River, bordered by West Street, 12th Street, and Walnut Street

Mid-town Brandywine is a neighborhood consisting of mostly row homes, located near Brandywine Park. This area is very close to running or biking trails along the Brandywine River, as well as downtown Wilmington.



Trinity Vicinity

Neighborhood surrounding Trinity Episcopal Church, located at the intersection of Adams St. and Delaware Avenue.

Trinity Vicinity is a small historic district, named for the Trinity Church at the heart of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is perfect for those who might choose to commute to work by bicycle, and is a very short walk to downtown.



Dover

Accessible, quaint, and only 30 minutes from the beach

Dover is a charming city situated halfway between Wilmington and Rehoboth Beach, making the entire state easily accessible. It is consistently ranked among the best places to live in the U.S. and is home to the Dover International Speedway and Dover Downs, a popular horse track and casino.

Living in Delaware

Entertainment

World Café Live at the Queen

<http://queen.worldcafelive.com/>

This new music venue in downtown Wilmington features two stages, Upstairs and Downstairs. The venue Upstairs is more intimate space and offers casual dining, while Downstairs is a larger stage with a full bar and kitchen.



Dover Downs

www.doverdowns.com

Dover Downs offers a wide variety of entertainment options, including live harness racing, dining options ranging from deli to gourmet, a four diamond hotel, exciting concerts, 24-hour gaming including live table games, and a luxurious spa.

Brandywine River

<http://www.wildernesscanoetrips.com>

Enjoy a leisurely float down the Brandywine River in a tube or paddle down in a kayak or canoe. Alternatively, enjoy walking, biking, or running along the scenic Brandywine Park trails.



Rehoboth Beach

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g34048-Rehoboth_Beach_Delaware-Vacations.html

Enjoy an old-fashioned beach weekend at one of Delaware's most popular resort towns, complete with a boardwalk.

Living in Delaware

Wilmington Riverfront

<http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/>

Walk along the Riverfront in downtown Wilmington and go to a restaurant, theatre, or Blue Rocks baseball game. Other sites worth visiting include the Riverfront Market and the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, all along the river. On special nights, you can also take a River Taxi rides along the Christina to learn the history of the area and enjoy wine tastings.

Assorted Fairs and Festivals

<http://www.visitdelaware.com/things-to-do/festivals/>

Experience the beautiful outdoors while watching a pumpkin hurling contest with live entertainment and delicious local fare at the World Championship Punkin Chunkin in Bridgeville. Check out the DuPont Clifford Brown Jazz Festival, a free, week-long outdoor music festival held in Rodney Square in the heart of downtown Wilmington. Or enjoy Delaware's one-of-a-kind scrapple and celebrate its agricultural community with live entertainment, carnival rides, and trade and craft shows at the Apple-Scrapple Festival in Bridgeville.



Wilmington Blue Rocks

<http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t426>

Frawley Stadium, located on the Riverfront, is home to Wilmington's minor league baseball team the Blue Rocks. All Friday home games feature fireworks, and they also offer featured games for students.



Dogfish Head Brewery

www.dogfish.com

Visit the home of "Off-centered ales for off-centered people" in Milton. After touring the brewery and sampling their craft brews, enjoy local fare at their restaurant in nearby Rehoboth Beach—also home to the state's only legal distillery and a small experimental brewery.

Want to see more Delaware hot spots? Check out an interactive website of events and attractions, collected by the city of Wilmington:

<http://inwilmingtonde.com/>

Art on the Town

<http://www.wilmingtonde.gov/residents/artloop>

The first Friday of the month is the Art on the Town in Wilmington. The art loop includes more than 35 venues throughout the city showcasing artwork and holding an opening reception from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. At 8:30 pm., the re:Fresh After Party kicks off and runs