

Governor's Weekly Message Transcript: Supporting Talented Teachers to Ensure Student Success

Every Delaware child deserves the best possible education and that's why we're increasing access to quality early education for children in every community, raising academic standards to match college and career ready benchmarks, and investing in beneficial after-school programs. But investments like these can only help young people succeed if they have outstanding teachers in their classrooms.

This past week, I was proud to kick off the second year of what we call the "Delaware Talent Cooperative." It's a group of high performing educators who have committed to work in schools with a high percentage of disadvantaged students. We help make it possible for them to take on this challenge by offering financial incentives that are proven to attract and retain top teachers at high-needs schools. And we've just announced a new effort to help keep these teachers in Delaware by lowering mortgage rates for those who qualify for assistance.

We've got many excellent teachers throughout this state, but we need more.

Having recently visited our next generation of teachers at Delaware State University and the University of Delaware, I'm optimistic that we can put more great instructors in all of our schools. You sense their passion as they talk about helping hard-to-reach students and their desire to understand the challenges facing our education system. Most of all, they want to make a difference in kids' lives; and, with

support from a new law strengthening teacher preparation programs at our colleges and universities, we can ensure they are ready to make that difference.

By working to ensure all of our students can benefit from great teachers, we'll keep Delaware moving forward.