
I wanted to give you a quick update

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Tue, Jan 14, 2025 at 8:30
AM



Hi friend!

We hope that you had a great holiday season!

One of our New Year's Resolutions for 2025 is to keep you better informed about all of the important progress we are helping to make for Delaware children, so we hope to be sending you updates like this on a regular basis.

As always, your advocacy is the reason that these good things are happening, so we thank you once again for staying in touch with your elected officials to speak up for Delaware's children.

Reducing Childhood Lead Poisoning

In 2024, we helped persuade the state to make historic investments in eliminating exposed lead paint in Delaware homes, which is believed to be the top cause of lead poisoning in Delaware children.

Prior to 2023, Delaware had never invested state funds in the remediation of exposed lead paint.

In 2023, we worked to persuade the state to invest \$2 million into a fund designed to offset the cost of lead paint remediation. And in 2024, that number went up to \$5,500,000.

As we work to see legislation passed in 2025 that will require landlords, over a period of years, to remediate exposed lead paint in their units in order to reduce Delaware's unconscionable levels of childhood lead poisoning, these investments will prove extremely important.

Expanding Volunteer Mentoring in Delaware Public Schools

One of Action for Delaware's Children's priorities in recent years was to make it easier for Delawareans to volunteer their time mentoring in our public schools, in order to help out kids who need extra assistance and overburdened teachers.

Thanks to our efforts, and with the invaluable help of State Representative Kim Williams, the state now has a centralized website to register people or companies interested in mentoring.

The state has also made it easier for mentors to have their legally required background checks, by paying the fingerprinting fee that was once charged to potential mentors, and expanding the number of sites around the state where potential mentors can go to be fingerprinted.

There is much more work to do, but these are important first steps in the effort to bring more volunteer mentors back into Delaware schools!

Supporting Expanded School Day and School Year Programs in High Poverty Schools

Action for Delaware's Children has been working since 2020 to encourage the state to invest in high-quality programs in its high poverty elementary schools that allow children to get help before school, after school, and during the summer.

Working with Senator Elizabeth Lockman, we have succeeded in persuading the state to fund these programs in three schools that won a competitive bidding process – they are each receiving almost \$2 million per year to operate these programs and expanded student health center programs.

We have also received commitments from elected officials to double the number of schools with these programs over the next two years.

Looking for people to host coffee chats

We are always looking for people willing to invite 5 or 10 of their friends over to hear about Action for Delaware's Children's priorities, so we can expand our network of advocates for Delaware's kids.

If you'd like to have a small coffee at your home, please reply to this message and let me know so we can talk more!

Thank you,

Matt Denn