



## **From the Desk of Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn**

### **Reviving Delaware Weekly Stimulus Update April 10, 2009**

Recently, there has been a lot of publicity about the new federal funds that President Obama's federal stimulus package is bringing to Delaware. It is good news. But one thing that President Obama and Vice President Biden have made clear to me and the federal stimulus chairs of the other 49 states is that they expect us to carefully monitor this money, to ensure that no taxpayer funds are wasted and that the money is used responsibly.

Some of the stimulus money that has arrived in Delaware has been very helpful to the state, but not necessarily visible to many Delawareans—an increase in the federal share of the state's Medicaid expenses, for example, or a \$25/week increase in unemployment compensation. Soon, though, millions of dollars in federal stimulus funds will begin to flow directly to our local school districts. This week, the Governor and I began taking steps to ensure that this dramatic increase in federal education funding is wisely spent.

The Governor and I reminded district superintendents and charter school leaders this week that the federal stimulus funds they would be receiving—the first set of funds relating to economically disadvantaged children and children with disabilities—were temporary, and should be used with that in mind. We also proposed some specific uses for these funds:

- Helping teachers purchase classroom supplies;
- Purchase of assistive technology for disabled students;
- Contracting with private agencies to assist with mental health services and prevention of suspensions and expulsions;
- School-based early childhood education;
- Teacher training; and
- Before-school and after-school programs.

We also reminded superintendents and school leaders of their critical legal responsibility to include parents in the planning for the use of this new money. The federal laws governing funding of education for the economically disadvantaged requires a high level of parental involvement, and we intend to closely monitor school compliance with that mandate, because we believe parental involvement is so critical to student success.

Finally, we also told the superintendents and school leaders that the state would soon be issuing a new set of regulations designed to closely monitor the use of federal stimulus funds in local school districts. We are determined to be good stewards of this historic influx of federal education dollars.