



**Dr. Rick Cobb**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

7217 S.E. 15th Street  
Midwest City, OK 73110  
(405) 737-4461  
[rcobb@mid-del.net](mailto:rcobb@mid-del.net)

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### **Mid-Del Legislative Goals 2022**

1. Mid-Del strongly opposes any voucher legislation.
2. All schools receiving public funding, including those that benefit from tax credits or education savings accounts, should be subject to the same accountability measures as all public schools.
3. The Oklahoma Legislature should develop a sustainable and stable plan to increase operational funding for public school districts which will bring Oklahoma per pupil expenditures and teacher salaries to the regional average and increase wages for support employees.
4. The Oklahoma Legislature should continue full funding of health insurance for certified and support staff.
5. The Oklahoma Legislature should protect and preserve the Oklahoma Retirement System as a defined benefit plan, and to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for retired TRS members.
6. The Oklahoma Legislature should implement a student weight in the state funding formula for full time virtual students that is reflective of the reduced cost associated with providing full time virtual education.
7. School districts should be an equal partner with city and county governments in the development and approval of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts financed by ad valorem revenue.
8. Mid-Del opposes any legislation that removes educational decisions from locally elected Boards of Education or creates unfunded mandates.
9. Mid-Del supports legislation that removes statutory barriers to dual credit offerings to high school students in district facilities. We believe that school districts should be able to partner with Oklahoma Higher Education Institutions of their choice to provide dual credit courses. We support the expansion of dual credit enrollment for students beginning in the ninth grade, and we support partnerships with higher education that allow certified teachers to provide instruction in dual credit courses.
10. To alleviate the teacher shortage, we support full reciprocity for teachers with out of state certificates, we support legislation to immediately allow retired teachers to return to the classroom without restrictions on earnings and we support the creation of programs that will increase the number of college graduates who obtain teacher certification, and we support a review of the current pathways to teacher certification.
11. Mid-Del supports an increase in transportation funding that reflects the cost of student transportation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also support a comprehensive review of state law and state department rules for school bus driver certification.