

Wilmington, Delaware  
March 6, 2025

**#0012**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 15 (HB 15), An Act to Amend Title 14 of the Delaware Code

**Sponsor:**

Relating to Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education, would permit early childhood

**Council Member  
Owens**

educators in public schools to use and encourage play-based learning in preschool,

**Co-Sponsors:**

kindergarten, and grades one through three in their classrooms and curriculum. It also permits

**Council  
Members  
Oliver  
Harlee  
Bracy  
Hackett  
Cabrera  
Willauer**

local education agencies to provide early childhood professional development in play-based

learning, which may include professional development programs developed by the Department

of Education. Play-based learning is defined “as any learning activity that is performed by a

child for self-amusement that has behavioral, social, and psychomotor rewards.” It may also

mean “activities that are child-directed, joyful, and spontaneous whereby the rewards come

from the individual child”; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 15 adheres to the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan legislative priority of a "Wilmington For All Ages" that engages in advocacy and support for Wilmington’s youth in the educational process; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council recognizes the profound potential of play-based learning in early childhood education to foster critical cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. Currently, all early education facilities are not equipped with the resources or capacity to fully implement play-based learning programs. HB 15 permits child-directed experiences based upon developmentally-appropriate early childhood practices including movement, creative expression, exploration, socialization, reading for pleasure, art, music, and dramatic play. It also empowers local education agencies and the Department of Education to

provide guidance and resources for educators to effectively incorporate play-based practices into their curricula; and

**WHEREAS**, children need a variety of skills to optimize their development. HB 15 aims to leverage play with adults and other children to help young learners practice fundamental sociobehavioral concepts like sharing and conflict resolution. HB 15 incorporates and integrates play-based learning into daily practice of a child's life. This ensures that lessons are engaging for children and increases the probability that children will retain the information;and

**WHEREAS**, play allows children to express their creativity and imagination, HB 15 allows the needs of students to be met through free play or through guided play and games. Children can create their own worlds, build upon their natural curiosity, stories, and characters, which fosters their imagination and innovative thinking.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON** that this Legislative body is strongly in favour of House Bill 15 (HB15), An Act to Amend Title 14 of the Delaware Code Relating to Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education. This legislation would play a critical role in harnessing the joy that is critical to creativity and learning for children at young ages.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Wilmington City Council urges the honorable members of the Delaware General Assembly to support HB 15, which authorizes local education agencies and the Delaware Department of Education to facilitate play-based learning in curricula for preschool through third-grade students and to offer professional development in play-based learning for public school early childhood educators.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**SYNOPSIS:** This Resolution expresses support for House Bill 15 (HB 15), An Act to Amend Title 14 of the Delaware Code Relating to Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education, which would permit early childhood educators in public schools to use and encourage play-based learning in preschool, kindergarten, and grades one through three in their classrooms and curriculum. HB 15 adheres to the Wilmington City Council 2022-2025 Strategic Plan legislative priority of a "Wilmington For All Ages" that engages in advocacy and support for Wilmington's youth in the educational process.