

Wilmington, Delaware
April 2, 2026

#0212

WHEREAS, the Wilmington City Council encourages educational practices that foster

Sponsor:

student learning and long-term success, including cursive handwriting as a foundational skill;

**Council
Member
Oliver**

and

WHEREAS, Title 14 § 4138 of the Delaware Code Relating to Educational

Requirements requires public elementary schools to include the teaching of cursive writing by grade 4 as a component of English Language Arts; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this requirement warrants attention to ensure it is reflected and practiced within public elementary schools' curricula; and

WHEREAS, a peer-reviewed study in *Frontiers in Psychology* indicates that cursive handwriting supports cognitive development and literacy skills related to language processing, memory, and motor development; and

WHEREAS, learning how to read and write cursive enables students to interpret handwritten letters, historical documents, and artifacts; and

WHEREAS, the emphasis of cursive handwriting has changed over time as instructional approaches have evolved; and

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside reported that despite shifts toward digital learning, cursive handwriting remains a valuable skill that supports writing fluency and signature literacy in ways that cannot be replicated by technology; and

WHEREAS, the ability to produce a signature is necessary to complete essential actions, including signing official documentation to obtain identification, register to vote, secure employment, open a bank account, and enter a housing agreement; and

WHEREAS, other states have recently taken legislative action to require cursive handwriting instruction in schools, including New Jersey, which requires cursive writing instruction in grades 3 through 5; Pennsylvania, which requires all students to learn cursive; and similar legislation is pending in New York, while at least 24 other states require cursive to be taught in some capacity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this Legislative body encourages the Delaware General Assembly, Department of Education, and school administrators to reaffirm the importance of cursive handwriting in schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council encourages the members of the Delaware General Assembly, Department of Education, and school administrators to ensure that cursive handwriting instruction is carried out in accordance with the requirements set forth in Title 14 § 4138 of the Delaware Code.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution reaffirms the importance of cursive handwriting instruction in public elementary schools' curricula and encourages the Delaware General Assembly, Department of Education, and school administrators to ensure that it is carried out in accordance with the requirements set forth in Title 14 § 4138 of the Delaware Code.