

**DISCLAIMER: This transcript is produced from Data Delaware podcast electronically;
the conversion is being offered on a best-efforts basis.**

Dace Blaskovitz: Welcome back to Money and Politics in Delaware. Welcome back, Charlie Copeland.

C. Copeland: Dace, I appreciate you having me on.

Dace Blaskovitz: For a first time listener, Charlie Copeland is a once a month regular, and I'm going to tease the segment and then we'll go back to our regular format. There are four things I'm going to set up for today. According to John Stapleford, a regular to the program, the Chairman of the Caesar Rodney Institute, according to the Bureau of Census inflation adjusted median income household income in Delaware went from 70,000ish in 2000 to 58,000 ish in 2016. This was the largest decline among the States and translates to a 17% drop in purchasing power for the median household income. Charlie Copeland, the second point, 80% of the minority kids, if I remember correctly, again quoting John Stapleford, cannot read and or write a grade level at eighth grade public education in the state of Delaware.

Dace Blaskovitz: So is it spending? And the answer is no. Delaware is the 14th highest spending state. What does that translate to? 2.4 collective billion dollars a year. B as in boy, but 80% of that does not make it to the classroom. So where does it go? It goes to Delaware, and it sure resembles a union job shop. I think the quote from John is that the bureaucracy is growing or grew seven times the rate. And then the other one that we probably should mention, the inflation adjusted average annual salary at Delaware's elementary and secondary public school teachers has been going down. Did he say down? Down, dropping from 65ish thousand in '89, '90 to 60ish thousand in '17, '18, and then Charlie Copeland came on last month and he said the DSEA, the Delaware state teacher's education, which is part of the mother organization, the NEA, National Education Association, let's see, defeated motions to better train teachers and improve student education, instead social platform was adapted.

Dace Blaskovitz: How's that for a two minute recap my friend?

C. Copeland: Absolutely amazing.

Dace Blaskovitz: It's absolutely amazing.

C. Copeland: We should bottle that up and and tweet it out regularly.

**DISCLAIMER: This transcript is produced from Data Delaware podcast electronically;
the conversion is being offered on a best-efforts basis.**

Dace Blaskovitz: Well we are, that's what you're doing back here today because you have even more amazing stats. But let's start at the beginning. We get first time listeners, Charlie, you're a regular to the program, but somebody that doesn't know you, 30 seconds about you and 30 seconds about your business.

C. Copeland: Yeah, so I've spent the vast majority of my life here in Delaware living within three miles of the statue there at the Rodney Square and that's close to, well it's probably over 45 years that I've lived within that circle and within the state Senate in the early 2000s. Again, was raised here, run a family business here for 20 something years in the direct mail, commercial print, marketing services industry. And then a few years back became the president of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute. And for anybody that's interested in that, they can go to isi.org to see what we do and who we serve. But we serve basically as a para university. Para meaning next to, and we come in to college campuses, we have a presence on 40% of them across the country, and we educate students in free markets, limited government property rights, those things that truly make a society and an individual flourish and prosper, and they come through the Western, Judea, Christian, everything from Plato to NATO history of why the United States and sort of that Western civilization have created unknown and unimagined prosperity and wealth across the globe that we should be touting and celebrating, not denigrating and throwing under the bus.

Dace Blaskovitz: With that said, you ready to go?

C. Copeland: I am.

Dace Blaskovitz: Okay. We tape on Friday, air on Saturday. On Tuesday night, the Caesar Rodney Institute had it's annual banquet. Charlie is a board member of CRI and I, in my disclosure, disclaimer is that I do a standalone vertical, I published out of Data Delaware under the CRI umbrella, and Tuesday night he was a soft spoken a guy. But I think you and I would be fair to say we were dazzled. The stats on the public education and his insights were second to none. I've asked you to be prepared today, we'll call it Delaware's growth correlates to it's schools. Charlie Copeland, the platform is yours.

C. Copeland: Thanks Dace. So yeah, the Caesar Rodney Institute had their dinner and Dr. Eric Hanushek from the Hoover Institution, which is located at Stanford University out in California. And the Hoover Institution supports the constitution, the bill of rights and its method of representative government. It certainly promotes private enterprise from which springs initiative and ingenuity. So that's their background, but they do research across the country, across the spectrum of public policy. And Eric is in education. He's actually a micro economist, but he analyzes education from a micro economy ...

**DISCLAIMER: This transcript is produced from Data Delaware podcast electronically;
the conversion is being offered on a best-efforts basis.**

C. Copeland: But anyway, so the summary of his talk honestly is better teachers will make you richer, and of course Delaware's education system is designed and run so that you will not get better teachers, and therefore Delaware is getting poorer.

C. Copeland: So let me just start with the close so that everyone knows where we're going here. For instance, as Eric pointed out, Delaware ranks 35th in the nation in educational achievement, 35th in the nation at the 45th percentile, which means that we are below average of course being 35th, but our students are both are below average in the United States. And that means simply that we can expect below average economic growth and opportunity. I'll get to some of those numbers later, but interestingly enough, the top state in the nation, Massachusetts, that the average Delaware student, if they were in Massachusetts, would be in the bottom third of Massachusetts students. So the average Delaware student, if they moved to Massachusetts, would be in a bottom third in Massachusetts in their educational achievement. So that shows how we compare with the state that is a blue state, just like Delaware is.

C. Copeland: So we're not talking about, some vast right wing conspiracy thing. And if Delaware performed at the same level as Massachusetts in education, Delaware's GDP would be 8% higher every year, which it translates that every worker in Delaware would have a paycheck that is 17% higher. So think about that, Governor Carney, when you talk about wanting economic growth and wanting people to have more money in their pocket, that if our schools performed at the same level as Massachusetts, that Delaware's economy every year, so that compound interest for those of you who have got spreadsheets out there, you can run that number out, would be 8% higher every year. And Delaware workers would have 17% higher paychecks. And of course, this is just comparing Delaware to Massachusetts, which is in the United States. And as we know, the United States is actually a below average education nation.

C. Copeland: So if we were competitive in the world, we would be doing even better economically speaking. Some of the best nations in the world, Shanghai, which actually a nation, but a city in China, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Finland, Taiwan, Lichtenstein, Switzerland. And finally, after all those, you get to Massachusetts. And Delaware is well down the international list. We eek out a victory over Spain and Italy, but we still lose to Ireland. So Delaware is pretty embarrassing in it's educational achievement. But if we actually want a little bit further North from Massachusetts and say if we performed at the Canadian level, which is better than Massachusetts, but not significantly, Delaware's GDP would be 9% higher every year than it is today, which means that every Delaware worker would have 18% to 19% more in their paycheck.

DATA DELAWARE: Monday, October 21, 2019
SUBJECT: Delaware's growth correlates to its schools! (Part I Podcast transcript)

DISCLAIMER: This transcript is produced from Data Delaware podcast electronically; the conversion is being offered on a best-efforts basis.

C. Copeland: So those are targets out there that aren't far from achievement and we could probably do that. So Dace, I think there's good news here, but there's a lot of bad news here as well.

Dace Blaskovitz: Let me stop you there. Charlie Copeland does two segments with us. In other words, we're going to take a short break, we love our advertisers, and come back. When we come back, we'll tell you why Massachusetts and Minnesota rank so much higher than Delaware. It's rather obvious, but fascinating. His name is Charlie Copeland. We're going to take a short break and we will be right back.