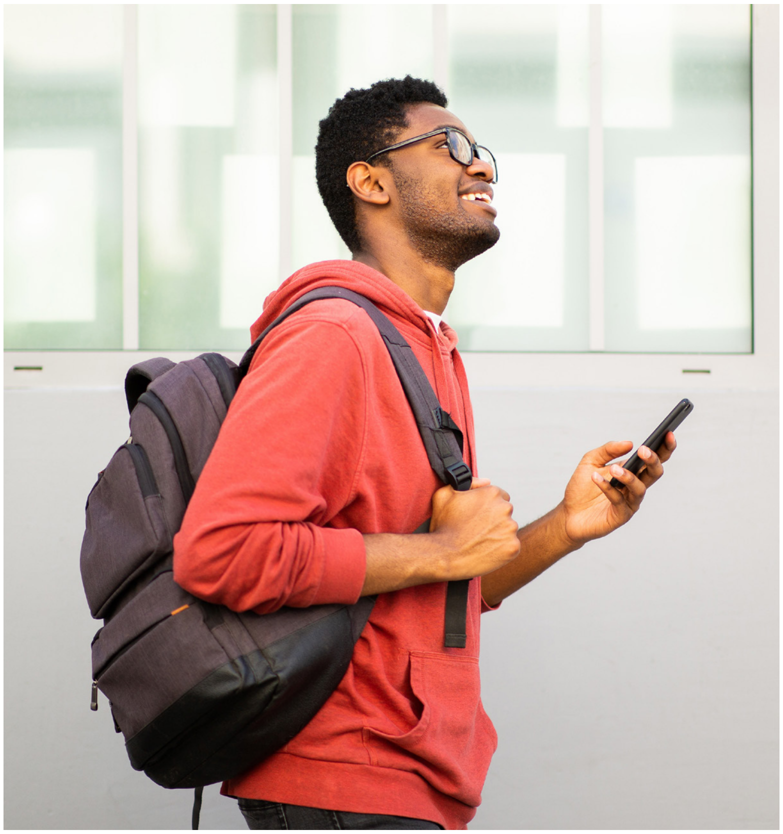
INSURANCE MATTERS

A Newsletter for Delawareans

August 2026



New Student Insurance Checklist

Heading off to college is an exciting milestone and, for many young adults, the first time they will be living away from home and managing more responsibilities on their own. Between choosing classes, moving into a dorm or apartment, and making sure you have everything you need for the school year, insurance may not be at the top of your to-do list. However, taking a little time to understand your insurance coverage before leaving for campus can help prevent unexpected financial surprises later.

Before you head off to school, take some time to review your homeowners or renters, health, and auto insurance policies. Talk with your parents or guardians and your insurance company or agent about any changes in your living situation or transportation needs. Understanding your coverage before you leave can give you one less thing to worry about and help you start your college experience prepared for the unexpected.

We're here to help with some tips on what to look into before you take that leap into the next steps of your education journey.

To read more on our new student insurance checklist continue to page 2

In This Issue

Insurance Commissioner of the State of Delaware

Trinidad Navarro
Insurance Commissioner
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New Student Insurance Checklist

Health ✅

As a student, you have a few options available to you for getting health insurance.

Through Your Parents

Chances are, you've been covered by your parents' health insurance since you were a child and, under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), you may be able to stay on their plan for a while longer. ACA states that any insurance plan that offers dependent coverage must make that available until the dependent reaches age 26. Some states may have laws that require longer extensions of dependent coverage, so check with your state insurance department to verify the age limit and any qualifications or limitations.

Through Your School

Students who do not have health insurance through a parent's policy, or who have limited coverage due to network service areas, may opt to purchase a student health insurance plan. Some schools may even require a student health plan as part of registration. Generally, student plans have more limited benefits and more exclusions than HMOs or PPOs and have limited coverage for prescriptions and preventive care.

Through the Exchange

Starting November 1, enrollment begins on the new health insurance marketplaces, or exchanges. You have until December 15 to enroll for coverage to begin on January 1. If you miss this, you have until January 15 when Open Enrollments ends. After that, the only way to enroll would be if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. These online portals ask consumers to enter information about themselves and select the level of coverage they desire to receive a list of plans they can purchase. For more information on health insurance marketplaces, visit healthcare.gov.

Home ✅

Take a look around your dorm room or apartment – how much do you think it would cost to replace everything after theft or a disaster? What if one of your friends got hurt while hanging out at your place?

If you just moved into a dorm, your parents' homeowners policy will likely cover your stuff in case of a loss. Just be sure to let your parents know if you purchase a new computer or other pricey items; they'll need to check with their insurance provider to see if they have enough coverage.

Students living off campus should consider renters insurance, an inexpensive form of coverage that protects your personal property and insures you in case someone is injured while on your property.

Auto ✅

Most states require that you carry at least a minimum amount of liability coverage, which pays damages and injuries to someone else if you are found responsible for an accident you did not intentionally cause. Some states also require you to buy personal injury protection (PIP) coverage, so check with your agent to see if you have enough coverage.

You will need to purchase your own policy if your name is on the title for the car, but you may be able to stay on your parents' policy if they own the vehicle. Let your insurance agent know where the vehicle will be stored if the address is different than what's on the policy.

If you want coverage for damages to your car, you will need comprehensive and collision coverage. Collision coverage fixes damage caused when you hit something or if somebody hits you, while comprehensive coverage is for just about everything else, like hail damage or hitting a deer.

WORKPLACE SAFETY Throughout Delaware

Over the past several months, our Workplace Safety team along with Commissioner Navarro have been traveling up and down Delaware to visit businesses participating in the program and commemorate their years of commitment to workplace safety program. These visits provide an opportunity to recognize employers for their dedication while highlighting the importance of creating an environment where employees can work safely and confidently each day.

Reaching milestones in the Workplace Safety Program is something worth celebrating. The commitment demonstrated by participating businesses reflects the important role employers play in preventing workplace injuries and protecting their employees.

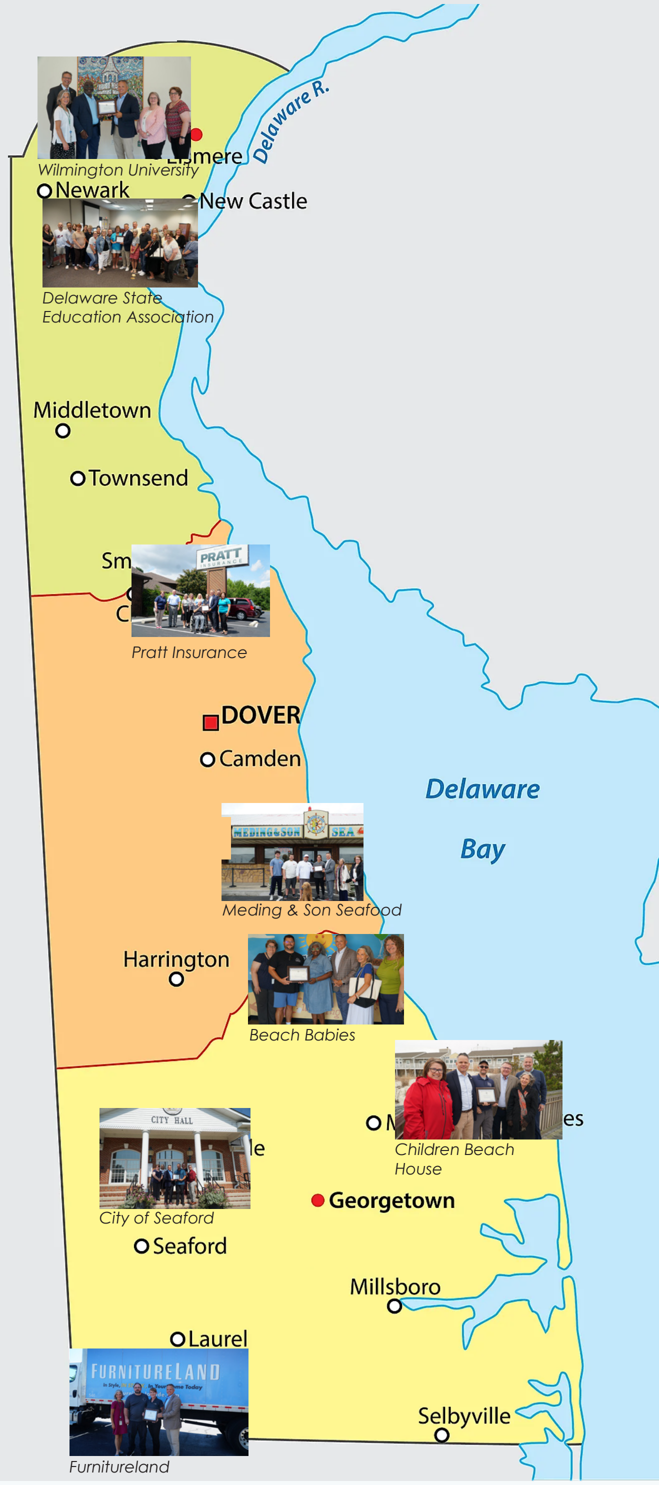
Businesses may earn a discount by providing and maintaining a safe place to work. Since the program's inception in 1989, employers have saved millions of dollars in premiums, and more importantly, have enhanced the safety and health of their employees.

Our Workplace Safety team look forward to continuing their travels throughout the state, celebrating these accomplishments and supporting Delaware employers in their ongoing efforts to make safety a part of the workplace culture.

If you're a Delaware business owner and would be interested in taking part in our Workplace Safety Program visit:

https://insurance.delaware.gov/services/workplacesafetydiscount/

to find out more!

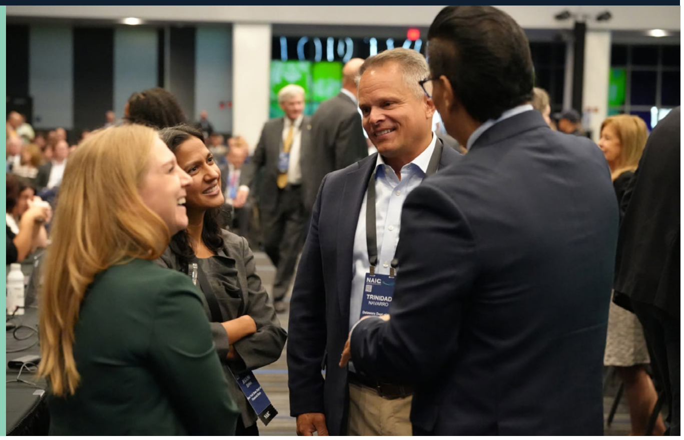


DOI CORNER

NAIC Summer National Meeting

On Aug. 11–14, National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Members gathered in Columbus, Ohio, for the organization's 2026 Summer National Meeting, where they continued addressing the regulatory opportunities and challenges of the modern insurance marketplace.

The Delaware Department of Insurance and Commissioner Trinidad Navarro were proud to be part of the meeting. We look forward to helping our Delaware consumers on their insurance needs including financial solvency oversight, market conduct, emerging technologies, health insurance affordability and availability, natural catastrophe risk, and more.



ASK THE COMMISSIONER

What is Replacement Cost?

Trinidad Navarro
Delaware Insurance Commissioner

Replacement cost is the amount it would generally take to repair or replace your home or personal property with materials of similar kind and quality, without subtracting for depreciation. In other words, replacement cost focuses on what it would cost to replace something today, rather than what the item was worth after years of age and wear and tear.

For example, imagine a 10-year-old television is damaged in a covered loss. Under an actual cash value policy, the insurer would generally account for the television's depreciation when determining the payment. With replacement cost coverage, the policy may cover the cost of replacing it with a new television of similar kind and quality, subject to the terms, limits, and deductible of your policy.

Replacement cost can also apply to your home itself. It is important to understand that the replacement cost of your home is not the same as its market value or the amount you paid for it. The cost to rebuild considers factors such as current construction materials and labor, while your home's market value also includes the value of the land.

Consumers should review their policies regularly and talk with their insurance agent or company to make sure their coverage limits accurately reflect their current needs. Ask whether your policy provides replacement cost or actual cash value coverage, what conditions apply, and whether your coverage limits are sufficient to rebuild or replace your property after a covered loss.

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The consumer comes first.

Our office is here to help if you have questions about or problems with your insurance coverage or insurance company.

Questions about insurance or complaints about an insurance company or insurance agent can be made to the Consumer Services Division by phone, by fax, by letter, by email or with an online complaint form.

Phone: 302-674-7300

Fax: 302-739-6278

consumer@delaware.gov

Insurance Commissioner of the State of Delaware

Our Mission

Protecting Delawareans through regulation and education while providing oversight of the insurance industry to best serve the public.