

Delaware State Spending Evaluation

Public Release Package

Evidence-led summary of the exhibit record

Public-facing release • pointed but careful • centered on State spending

Topics covered	Exhibit CSVs	Row-level exhibit rows
91	273	927,769

This release is documentary in method. It does not treat every irregular row as proof of wrongdoing. It separates facial policy contradictions from rows that require supporting records and from rows that appear ordinary or operational on their face.

Priority emphasis: school resort travel.

The strongest public-facing priority in this package is the repeated appearance of school and school-adjacent agencies in resort, destination-lodging, airline, and related travel exhibits. That theme is presented first because it is easier for outside readers to follow than broader local-network or property-related concerns, while still relying on State spending data and policy language.

Executive summary

- This package is built from the State’s own credit-card and checkbook datasets, the State policy manual, awarded-vendor snapshots, and exhibit files that separate strong contradictions from rows needing supporting records or ordinary context.
- The record now covers 91 topics and 273 exhibit CSVs, including 183 row-level exhibit files and 10 master-layer files used for consolidation, trip-chain screening, and school-sector review.
- The package’s main strength is structure: mixed keyword files were cleaned up, false matches were separated, school-sector rows were consolidated, and the strongest contradictions were isolated into dedicated exhibit packets.
- The top public-facing issue is school resort travel. Secondary priority areas include limousine/premium-car service, gift and recognition spending, alcohol- or entertainment-adjacent venues, fines/violations, and opaque online/procurement channels.
- This release is not a final accusation memo. It is an evidence package designed to be verifiable, readable, and difficult to dismiss on the ground that it confuses mixed files or overstates weak rows.

Methodology and evidentiary standard

Search terms were treated as retrieval tools, not proof of meaning. Files were reviewed to determine whether they were true topic files, agency slices, vendor files, same-dollar pattern files, processor files, or broad fragment matches.

Each exhibit was organized into one or more buckets: strong contradiction or key follow-up; needs supporting records; likely ordinary or operational; and false match or excluded. This prevents broad or noisy files from being overstated.

“Strong contradiction” means the row is facially difficult to reconcile with the stated policy purpose or travel rule on the face of the data alone. “Needs supporting records” means the row may still be explainable, but requires receipts, approvals, agendas, event records, traveler lists, or item-level support.

Absence from an awarded-vendor list was not treated as automatic proof of impropriety. Awarded-vendor context is strongest on the checkbook side and weaker on the credit-card side because card data often uses merchant descriptors, processors, and location names rather than formal vendor names.

This package uses a deliberately conservative standard. It avoids motive claims and reserves conclusions beyond what the record directly supports.

Top findings for public release

Rank	Finding	Exhibit topics	Rows	Amount	Why it matters
1	School resort and destination travel	RESORTS; HYATT; CAYMAN; FLORIDA; AIRLINE; SCHOOL; CHARTER	8,503	\$3,171,463.13	School and school-adjacent agencies appear repeatedly in resort, destination-lodging, and associated travel exhibits. This is the top public-facing priority.
2	School-sector master concentration	SCHOOL_SECTOR master layer	147,116		The school-sector master layer consolidates school-related exhibit rows across travel, lodging, venue, gift, restaurant, and recognition topics for cross-reference.

3	Premium car and limousine use	LIMO	319	\$65,291.64	Limousine and executive-car merchants are facially difficult to reconcile with the travel rule excluding premium car service.
4	Gift, edible, trophy, and commemorative spending	EDIBLE; GIFT; TROPHY; COIN	1,436	\$245,444.09	These purchases require a strong necessity explanation and often are not self-justifying on the face of the data.
5	Alcohol and entertainment-adjacent venues	LOUNGE; BEER; CLUBS; EAT	1,771	\$1,496,315.63	Bar, brewery, pub, club, and hospitality-style venue spending creates direct policy-fit questions about alcohol, entertainment, and meal necessity.
6	Parking tickets, red-light cameras, and violation-style fees	FINES; ROAD_FEES	493	\$24,044.08	The policy manual expressly prohibits parking tickets and traffic violations, and some road-fee rows reflect violation or plate-billed toll patterns.
7	Consumer subscriptions and AI adoption	YOUTUBE; GOOGLE; OPENAI	963	\$49,673.73	Consumer-style subscriptions are hard to justify on their face, while recurring OpenAI subscriptions show agencies themselves treated AI tools as operationally useful.
8	Opaque online/procure	AMAZON; PAYPAL;	7,562	\$2,814,195.92	Amazon, PayPal, and broad

	ment channels	ONLINE			online ordering can obscure the underlying item or vendor and therefore require stronger record support.
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School resort travel detail

The table below collects the school-travel-adjacent layers that most directly support the priority finding. It combines school-sector topics with destination and travel topics, but keeps high-risk rows distinct from rows that still require supporting records.

Topic	High-risk rows	High-risk amount	Needs-records rows	Needs-records amount
HYATT	1,730	\$814,002.24	4,485	\$1,421,127.73
SCHOOL	4,137	\$739,444.99	61,413	\$10,441,093.06
DISTRICT	3,206	\$591,706.67	48,961	\$8,404,943.25
RESORTS	1,219	\$581,549.60	986	\$292,761.66
CHARTER	785	\$112,523.20	10,488	\$1,780,039.77
EDUCATION	603	\$67,297.28	8,611	\$1,107,644.77
LIMO	319	\$65,291.64	0	\$0.00
CASINO	157	\$56,810.79	145	\$52,866.32
FLORIDA	46	\$29,728.03	14	\$7,316.54
CAYMAN	21	\$15,617.95	2	\$9,359.38
AIRLINE	49	\$0.00	34	\$0.00
LODGING	2,264	\$0.00	10,064	\$0.00

Trip-chain screening note

A candidate trip-chain layer was also generated to match airline exhibit rows with nearby lodging or destination rows for the same department. It is a screening layer, not final proof, but it helps identify where separate travel files likely describe the same trip.

DEPT_NAME	candidate_pairs	airline_amount_total	ground_amount_total
DEPT OF STATE	176	\$1,012,088.84	\$51,536.35
DEL TECH AND COMM COLLEGE	62	\$735,794.21	\$64,907.39
DEPT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND	29	\$271,641.83	\$5,305.50
CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	13	\$92,387.64	\$4,443.06
APPOQUINIMINK SCHOOL DISTRICT	9	\$45,564.40	\$8,101.61
CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT	8	\$114,762.78	\$1,083.26
NEWARK CHARTER SCHOOL	5	\$42,328.20	\$7,195.35
CAPITAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	\$8,651.40	\$1,046.28
CHRISTINA SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	\$15,706.86	\$340.00

LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT	2	\$11,329.20	\$404.80
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Audit comparison note

The official FY2025 single-audit summary and the Delaware LIVE article describe the same headline totals, but the article uses a more prosecutorial framing while the official state summary is more structured and balanced. This package is separate from that audit: it evaluates State spending patterns and policy fit, not Uniform Guidance compliance alone.

OpenAI adoption note

Recurring OpenAI subscription charges by multiple Delaware public bodies undermine any blanket claim that AI-assisted analysis is inherently unserious or categorically unnecessary for public work. What still matters is method, verification, and evidence.

What this package does not do

It does not treat every unusual merchant string as wrongdoing. It does not collapse mixed files into a single narrative. It does not turn local-knowledge leads into public accusations without a record-based bridge. The package stays centered on State spending and uses other context only where it helps identify what a payee or merchant actually is.

Recommended use

This release is suitable for public-facing circulation as a documentary evidence package. It is also usable as a presentation aid or briefing packet. For formal submission, the strongest path remains to pair the release with the row-level exhibits, exhibit index, and any receipts, approvals, agendas, board minutes, or saved screenshots that corroborate the “needs supporting records” rows.

Package contents

Component	Description
Main public report	This document and its PDF export.
Exhibit index	FINAL_PUBLIC_EXHIBIT_INDEX.csv
Top findings	FINAL_PUBLIC_TOP_FINDINGS.csv
School travel topic rollup	FINAL_PUBLIC_SCHOOL_TRAVEL_TOPICS.csv
Trip-chain screening layer	TRIP_CHAIN_candidate_pairs.csv and summaries
School-sector master layer	SCHOOL_SECTOR_master_rows.csv and summaries
QC memorandum	Delaware_Exhibit_QC_Sweep_v1.pdf
Interim summary archive	Delaware_Exhibit_Summary_Interim_v5.pdf

Selected key exhibit files

Use case	File
School resort travel	RESORTS_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv

School-sector consolidation	SCHOOL_SECTOR_master_rows.csv
Airline high-risk rows	AIRLINE_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv
Lodging high-risk rows	LODGING_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv
Limousine rows	LIMO_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv
Gift rows	GIFT_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv
Beer / alcohol venues	BEER_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv
Lounge / entertainment venues	LOUNGE_exhibit_strong_contradiction_rows.csv
Fines / violations	FINES_exhibit_suspicious_rows.csv
OpenAI agency adoption	OPENAI_exhibit_summary_by_agency.csv

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