

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

Fact Sheet

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC)

- Established by state law HB148 to advise the Governor and General Assembly on:
 - Improvements to the quality and availability of education for children in Pre-K through grade 12 in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County (NCC);
 - Actions to address the needs of all Delaware schools with high concentrations of children living in poverty and English language learners (ELLs); and
 - Recommended policies and actions to promote the continuous improvement of public education.
- A community-based council outside of state agencies, mandated to work across all governmental units, educational entities, and private and nonprofit institutions to support the implementation of all recommended changes from the final report of the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (WEAC), *Strengthening Wilmington Education: An Action Agenda*.
- Will submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly and will sunset on June 30, 2021.

Commission membership

- Limited to 23 members from Wilmington and NCC, most designated by position.
- Includes district, charter, parent, teacher, student, and community representatives.

Commission leadership

- Appointed by Governor Markell: Chairperson Tony Allen (banking executive, Wilmington and Red Clay resident); Vice-Chairperson Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman (Red Clay parent and education advocate); and Vice-Chairperson Kenneth Rivera (President of Red Clay Consolidated School Board and Brandywine teacher).
- Policy Director Dan Rich (University of Delaware)
- Administrative support is provided by the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration.

Commission committees

- Will prepare recommendations to the Commission.
- The initial committees include: 1) redistricting; 2) charter and district collaboration; 3) meeting the needs of students in poverty; 4) funding; and 5) parent, educator, and community engagement.
- Will include membership beyond those represented on the Commission.

Commission redistricting responsibilities

- SB122 authorizes the State Board of Education to alter boundaries of school districts in NCC in a manner consistent with the recommendations made in the final WEAC report.
- The State Board’s action must be based on a transition, resource, and implementation plan prepared by WEIC.
- The General Assembly must pass, and the Governor sign, a Joint Resolution supporting the proposed changes.

The redistricting plan shall include and provide for

- Orderly and minimally disruptive reassignment of students affected by the boundary change and the reassignment of governance responsibilities;
- Implications for educators, administrators, and other personnel that may lead to equitable adjustments to local collective bargaining agreements;
- Funding resources to support the redistricting transition and provide effective education for all affected students, and for the support of schools with high concentrations of low income students and ELLs;
- Student transportation;
- Distribution of capital assets; and
- Engagement of educators, staff, parents, district personnel, and community members.
- Students to continue their attendance at the school they attended prior to the boundary change, with tuition payments by the sending district, until such time as the pupils complete the grade levels offered in that school.

www.solutionsfordelawareschools.com

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Prepared by the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration, August 26, 2015.

Q & A for the Red Clay Consolidated School District

Has the decision to change district boundaries already been made?

- **No.** The State Board of Education can only make that decision, after it reviews WEIC's implementation plan.
- The WEIC implementation plan is due by December 31, 2015.
- The authority of the State Board to act under the provisions of SB122 ends on March 31, 2016.
- The General Assembly must pass, and the Governor must sign, a Joint Resolution supporting the proposed changes.

Will the implementation plan recommended by WEIC be limited to redrawing boundaries?

- **No.** Simply redistricting is of no value without a comprehensive plan for school reform.
- The WEIC plan must include funding, parent and community engagement, and wraparound services.
- The WEIC plan will present a comprehensive package and ask the State Board to approve the entire package.

Will Red Clay play a larger role in Wilmington education?

- A larger role for Red Clay has been recommended, but no decision has been made.
- The Red Clay Board has only passed a resolution agreeing in principle that some major changes need to occur and that appropriate timelines and adequate funding are mandatory for Red Clay to take on an expanded role.

How is Red Clay represented on WEIC?

- Red Clay will be represented and involved in all stages of the process.
- WEIC Chair, Tony Allen, is a long-time Red Clay resident. WEIC's Vice-Chairs are Red Clay Board President Kenny Rivera and Red Clay parent Tizzy Lockman.
- A Red Clay teacher, student, and community member also will serve on the Commission.
- Red Clay Chief Financial Officer Jill Floore will co-chair the funding committee and Red Clay parent and advocate Yvonne Johnson will co-chair the parent, educator, and community engagement committee.
- Red Clay Superintendent Merv Daugherty and Assistant Superintendent Ted Ammann, as well as Kenny Rivera, will serve on the redistricting committee.
- All committees will include additional Red Clay representatives: administrators, teachers, principals, parents, and community members beyond those represented on the Commission.

What will be the roles and responsibilities of Red Clay in developing the plan for transition and implementation of redistricting?

- Red Clay will develop a transition, resource, and implementation plan for the responsibilities associated with the proposed expansion of its boundaries. This plan will include the logistics and timetable for implementation as well as the resources needed for the process to be successful.
- The Commission will use Red Clay's plan, in combination with the transition, resource, and implementation plans from the other districts involved, to develop the final redistricting report to be reviewed by the State Board of Education.

Will WEIC support Red Clay's development of the transition, resource, and implementation plan?

- **Yes.** WEIC's role is to support the work of all districts in developing their transition, resource, and implementation plans; to ensure that the district plans are coordinated and complimentary; and to present the full picture of the redistricting process to the State Board and to the General Assembly and Governor.

How will Red Clay communicate with the parents and residents?

- Red Clay will maintain communication throughout the process with parents, educators, and community members.
- A series of Red Clay town halls already is planned and more will be scheduled. Information will be available on the Red Clay website, and information also will be shared directly with parents and residents in the Red Clay newsletter.
- WEIC will support communication efforts via a WEIC website (in development) and existing Facebook page.

If redistricting occurs, who will determine school attendance and feeder patterns?

- The Red Clay district will retain responsibility for school attendance and feeder patterns consistent with the same guidelines as now exist.

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Wilmington Education Improvement Commission Membership

Tony Allen, Ph.D., Chairperson
Wilmington resident and senior executive with
Bank of America

Kenny Rivera, Vice-Chairperson
President, Red Clay School Board and Teacher,
Brandywine High School

Elizabeth Lockman, Vice-Chairperson
Wilmington Parent, Education Advocate, and Public
Allies Alumna

Eve Buckley, Ph.D.
Parent and Education Advocate, Christina School
District

The Honorable Nnamdi Chukwuocha
Chair, Education, Youth & Families Committee,
Wilmington City Council

Rosa Colon-Kolacko, Ph.D.
Chief of Diversity Officer, Christiana Care

Karen Eller
Teacher, Christina School District and Member of
Wilmington Education Advisory Committee

Reverend Meredith Griffin
Chairperson, Education Committee
Interdenominational Ministers Action Council

Frederika Jenner
President, Delaware State Education Association

Yvonne Johnson
Parent and Education Advocate, Red Clay
Consolidated School District

Joseph T. Laws
President, Colonial School Board

Margie Lopez Waite
Head of School, L'Aspira Academy Charter School

Aretha Miller
Executive Director, Community Education Building

Harrie Ellen Minnehan
President, Christina School Board

Joe Pika, Ph.D.
Former President, State Board of Education

Chandra Pitts
Parent and Executive Director, One Village Alliance

The Honorable Charles Potter, Jr.
Representative, Delaware General Assembly

Vicki Seifred
Teacher, H.B. duPont Middle School, Red Clay
Consolidated School District

John Skrobot
President, Brandywine School Board

The Honorable David Sokola
Senator, Delaware General Assembly

Michelle Taylor
President, United Way of Delaware

High School Student
Red Clay School District

Breyonna Williams
Student, Colonial School District

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission Support

Provided by the University of Delaware's Institute for Public Administration

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Wilmington Education Improvement Commission Committee Chairs

Redistricting Committee

Joe Pika, Ph.D., Former President, State Board of Education

Henry Harper, Ph.D., Former Superintendent, Appoquinimink School District

Charter and District Collaboration Committee

Eve Buckley, Ph.D., Parent and Education Advocate, Christina School District

Aretha Miller, Executive Director, Community Education Building

Meeting the Needs of Students in Poverty Committee

The Honorable Chandlee Kuhn, Former Chief Judge, Family Court

Michelle Taylor, President, United Way of Delaware

Jackie Jenkins, Ed.D., Education Advisor, Office of the Mayor of the City of Wilmington

Funding Student Success Committee

Jill Floore, Chief Financial Officer, Red Clay Consolidated School District

Mike Jackson, Deputy Comptroller-General, State of Delaware

Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee

Yvonne Johnson, Parent and Education Advocate, Red Clay Consolidated School District

Chandra Pitts, Parent and Executive Director, One Village Alliance