



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
THE TOWNSEND BUILDING 401 FEDERAL  
STREET, SUITE 2  
DOVER, DE 19901

February 23, 2016

Dear Dr. Allen:

On February 18, 2016, the State Board of Education (Board) took action deciding whether to approve the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC) submitted plan, "Redistricting in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County: A Transition, Resource, and Implementation Plan", or to return the plan to the Commission with reasons it could not be approved at this time. The Board voted to approve the plan with conditions.

The conditions outlined by the Board in their approval are as follows:

- **Approval by the Delaware Department of Education of priority school plans submitted by Christina School District.**
- **Change of the word "shall" to "may" in item #2 of the resolution within the plan.**  
"Shall" would commit the Board to a mandated action without the deliberation and review of the funding and supports in collaboration with the commission and the districts; and the current Board should not preclude a future Board the ability to take action after a review of all information.

The Board has absolutely no desire or intent for redistricting to become an unfunded mandate. Additionally, within the resolution's existing language, the ultimate decision rests with WEIC in consultation with the affected districts regarding expiration of the plan.

We fully believe and are committed to redistricting not being implemented with anything less than necessary and sufficient funding and supports. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss these items with WEIC and hope that together can move one step further on this path toward improving opportunities and access to high quality education for each and every child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri Quinn Gray".

**TERI QUINN GRAY, PH.D. PRESIDENT**

Cc: Members of the Delaware State Board of Education  
Ilona Kirshon, DAG  
S. Elizabeth Lockman, WEIC Vice Chair  
Kenneth Rivera, WEIC Vice Chair  
Dan Rich, Policy Director