

**Wilmington Education
Improvement Commission**
Solutions for Delaware Schools

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Subject: The Redistricting Resolution, Item #2 in the WEIC Redistricting Plan

Item #2 in the Resolution included in the [Redistricting in the City of Wilmington and New Castle County: A Transition, Resource, and Implementation Plan](#) reads as follows:

Upon passage of the Joint Resolution by the General Assembly, and signature by the Governor, the Plan, with stipulated milestones at each stage shall be carried out according to the timetable specified if the necessary and sufficient funding, recommended action, and related transition supports are provided in the timeframe and manner proposed, as confirmed by the Commission in consultation with the affected school districts. If the necessary and sufficient funding and transition supports are not provided by the conclusion of each stage and in the manner proposed, the Board of Education, at the request of the Commission after consulting with the affected districts, shall suspend the timetable for implementation until the resources and supports are provided. If the necessary and sufficient funding and transition supports are not confirmed by the Commission in consultation with the affected districts by July 2018, the plan will expire.

The intention of #2 of the resolution is to address the concerns of the members of the Redistricting Committee and the Red Clay School Board and Administration that redistricting might be approved and implemented without the funding needed to support its success. In essence, they sought to avoid an “unfunded mandate.” There was also concern that the State Board of Education’s action on the WEIC plan in 2016 could not be reversed if the conditions for success were not provided. To address these concerns, item #2 stipulates three contingencies corresponding to protect the districts being forced to implementation without the requisite funding.

- **Contingency One.** *“Upon passage of the Joint Resolution by the General Assembly, and signature by the Governor, the Plan, with stipulated milestones at each stage shall be carried out according to the timetable specified if the necessary and sufficient funding, recommended action, and related transition supports are provided in the timeframe and manner proposed, as confirmed by the Commission in consultation with the affected school districts.”*

The intent of this contingency is to ensure that implementation of redistricting is dependent upon “necessary and sufficient” funding. The Commission in consultation with the districts is **solely** responsible for determining whether the stipulated funding requirements are met. The State Board of Education is not a party to that determination.

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Contingency Two: *“If the necessary and sufficient funding and transition supports are not provided by the conclusion of each stage and in the manner proposed, the Board of Education, at the request of the Commission after consulting with the affected districts, shall suspend the timetable for implementation until the resources and supports are provided.”*

The contingency is that the timetable may be adjusted prior to the implementation of redistricting if the “necessary and sufficient funding” and transition supports are not provided by the conclusion of each stage. In this case, recognizing that budget constraints might delay the necessary funding, the intent is to enable the Commission in consultation with the districts to request a suspension of the timetable from the State Board of Education until the resource requirements are met. **Initiating action is at the discretion of WEIC and the districts but depends upon the State Board’s approval.** This contingency is available only for the two years prior to July 2018 when the redistricting is to take place. There is no contingency for suspending the timetable beyond July 2018.

- **Contingency Three:** *“If the necessary and sufficient funding and transition supports are not confirmed by the Commission in consultation with the affected districts by July 2018, the plan will expire.”*

The intent of this contingency is to assure that redistricting either takes place by 2018 or that it is no longer an active option. The deadline is a safeguard to assure that students, families, educators, district leaders and citizens are not left in limbo for an indefinite time. This contingency requires the Commission in consultation with the affected districts to confirm by July 2018 that the necessary and sufficient funding and transition supports” are available to carry out redistricting. **There are no other parties to this confirmation.** Without this confirmation, the plan for redistricting would no longer be an active option and the plan will expire.