



Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

Full Body Meeting

DECEMBER 14, 2023

Meeting Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Minutes**
- **Redding Consortium Co-Chairs Updates**
- **Work Group Updates**
- **Public Comment**

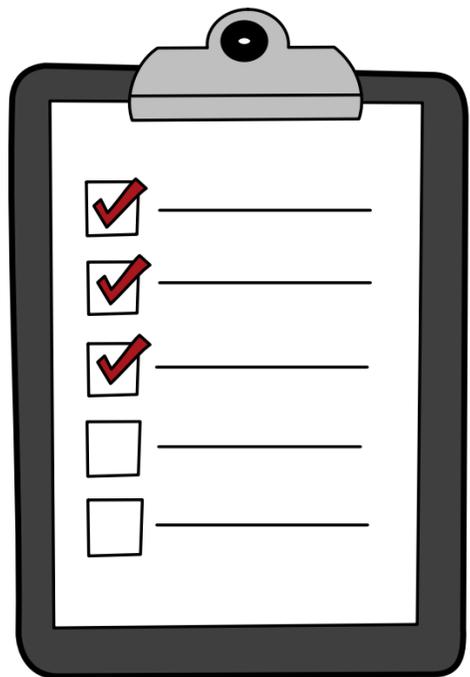
Welcome!



- **Reminder, this is a hybrid meeting**
- **Please announce your name before speaking to identify yourself**
- **Please mute yourself when not speaking**
- **Please note this meeting is being recorded and will be posted for the public**
- **Consortium members—please type your name in the chat for roll call**

Meeting Minutes





Co-Chairs Update

**Senator Lockman and Matt Denn,
*Redding Consortium Co-Chairs***



Redding Consortium Work Groups Accomplishments

Settlement Work Group Accomplishments

The Settlement Work Group:

- Provided recommendations about how to implement the education settlement requirements with fidelity;
- Tracked the minimum actions needed for compliance with the Delaware lawsuit settlement;
- Monitored the settlement funding in the Governor's budget each fiscal year

Work Group Status: Sunset as of 2023

Outcomes from Lawsuit:

- \$60M for Opportunity funding in perpetuity
- Doubled ECAP Funding to \$12.2M
- \$4M Annual Commitment to teacher recruitment and retention
- Increase in K-3 Basic Special Education funding
- Ombudsperson office in each county
- Equity Statement requirement for all capital projects
- **AIR Funding Assessment newly released**

Educator Work Group Accomplishments

- Provided **scholarships for educators and school staff** at Redding schools to address teacher recruitment.
 - **136** total scholarships have been awarded since the fall of 2022.
 - **71** scholarships have been awarded during the summer/fall 2023 term.
- Established the **Teacher Leadership Initiative Pilot Program** for professional development at the Redding schools for the 2023-'24 academic year.

Work Group Status: Co-chairs and IPA/DSU team are tracking and monitoring the implementation of these initiatives

Social Determinants Work Group Accomplishments

- Expanded full-day, state-supported pre-k
 - **499 state-funded contracted seats are now offered in the City of Wilmington.**
- Developed **wraparound services** for Wilmington students and families
- Supported the Boost '22-'26 initiative to **provide graduation coaching** for Wilmington students
- The **Equity Data Dashboard** focused on Wilmington students is underway



Redding Consortium Work Groups Updates

Social Determinants Work Group Updates

Raye Jones Avery and Jeff Menzer,
Social Determinants Work Group Co-Chairs



Social Determinants Work Group: Updates

- **Wraparound Services: DDOE is in the process of awarding grants** to successful applicants for wraparound services
- **Equity Data Dashboard: in Phase 2**, goal to complete phase 2 is Spring 2024
 - Priorities of Phase 2 are to align the City of Wilmington tag from geocodes with Wilmington scholars and provide student and educator data
- **Boost '22-'26 is underway: Redding funded graduation coaches for up to 3 years**
 - The UD IPA team will help track and measure progress for Boost and ensure Wilmington students receive support from graduation coaches

Social Determinants Work Group: Updates

The Social Determinants Work Group plans to sunset and transition to a monitoring the implementation role.

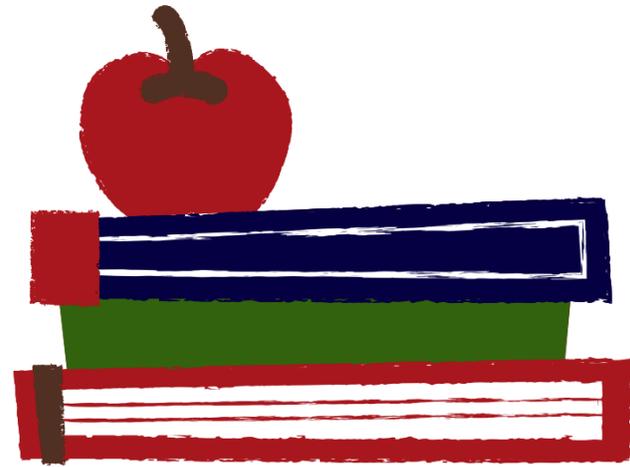
- Social Determinants Co-Chairs Raye Jones Avery and Jeff Menzer, with support from Matt Denn and Redding staff, will continue to monitor initiatives to ensure they are done with fidelity and Wilmington student wellbeing and success are at the forefront of decision-making
- As questions or issues arise, leadership will reach out to SDWG members for input and guidance



Redding Consortium

Formally Sunset

the Social Determinants Work Group



Educator Work Group Updates

**Rep. Mike Smith and Tika Hartsock,
*Educator Work Group Co-Chairs***

Educator Work Group Updates: Redding Consortium Scholarship

- **P.S. duPont Middle School** is now an “eligible Redding Consortium school” to utilize the scholarship.
- The application for coursework taken in the Winter and Spring 2024 sessions opened on October 18th, 2023, and closes **on March 29th, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.**
- There have been **53 applicants** for the winter/spring application term thus far

Community Update



Dr. Laura Burgos,
Executive Director of the
Wilmington Learning Collaborative

Redding Consortium

Purpose:

To recommend policies and practices to the Governor and General Assembly that will achieve educational equity and improve educational outcomes for all Pre-K to grade twelve students in the City of Wilmington and Northern New Castle County

Charges:

- **Monitor the educational progress and outcomes of Pre-K –12 students in the City of Wilmington by developing and publishing an annual data report**
- **Identify the barriers to educational equity and improved educational outcomes and recommend actions for overcoming these barriers**

Involved school districts:

- **Brandywine School District**
- **Christina School District**
- **Colonial School District**
- **New Castle County Vo-Tech School District**
- **Red Clay Consolidated School District**
- **Charter Schools**

Wilmington Learning Collaborative

Purpose:

To accelerate student outcomes through increased autonomy and decision-making at the school level, supported by school-based collaborative structures

Charges:

- **Completion of a teaching and learning analysis across WLC schools to inform planning and resource allocation**
- **Design and launch of Educator Leader Team (ELT) structure and ELT- driven innovation projects**
- **Development of Site-Based Community Councils**
- **System-wide family advocacy and engagement strategy**

Communication and coordination with WLC district partners:

- **Brandywine School District**
- **Christina School District**
- **Red Clay Consolidated School District**

Areas of Alignment

Empowering school communities

Improving outcomes for City of Wilmington students

**Codesign of expanded
learning activities with school communities**

Evidence-based support services

**State-funded programs focused on educational equity and access to high-quality teaching
and learning for Pre-K – 12 students**

Cohesive governance across school districts

Professional learning investments in teachers and school leader capacity

REDDING CONSORTIUM & WLC ALIGNMENT

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- Charter Schools

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- Brandywine School District
- Christina School District
- Red Clay Consolidated School District



Redistricting & Governance Update

Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Councilman Jea Street

Funding and Governance Co-Chairs

Historical Timeline

In 1978, northern New Castle County's education landscape underwent a major restructuring.

Eleven school districts (Wilmington and ten suburban districts) were first consolidated into a single district, then after a brief period of operation, this single district became four—the same four districts that exist today.



Overview of the Redistricting Mandate

Per **Senate Bill 148 and House Bill 222 (updates in HB 229)**, the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity is mandated to address redistricting in Wilmington and Northern New Castle County.

“The Consortium shall develop a proposal for redistricting in the City of Wilmington and northern New Castle County that will include provisions stipulated in concurrent legislation formulated specifically for that purpose with designated responsibilities and timelines for action at all levels.” - Senate Bill 148

Progress in the Educational Landscape

Since 2001, reports and groups have continuously called for:

- **Increased funding and support** for students from low-income families, students with disabilities, and multi-lingual learners;
- **Increased wraparound services** for children and families;
- **Highly effective educators and building leaders** who are retained—particularly in schools with high concentrations of students in poverty;
- **Increased parent/caregiver/family engagement**, support, communication, and transparency from schools.



Progress in the Educational Landscape

Although Delaware has not fully solved these issues, the state has made significant progress. The 2018 education funding lawsuit resulted in several key changes to the education landscape:



- Opportunity funding;
- Improved K-3 basic special education funding for students;
- Annual \$4M investment in teacher recruitment and retention in high-needs schools;
- The creation and funding of an Ombudsperson position/office in each county.
- Doubling of ECAP funding to ensure more pre-k seats for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Finalizing the AIR report, *Assessment of Delaware Public School Funding*

Progress in the Educational Landscape



There have been new school configurations and investments in Wilmington via:

- A brand new state-of-the-art **Maurice Pritchett, Sr. Academy** to replace the **Bancroft School**
- A renovated **Bayard School**
- A renovated **Stubbs Early Education Center**
- A repurposed **Pulaski Early Education Center**

Progress in the Educational Landscape



Additional progress:

- **The Redding Consortium for Educational Equity** has helped to increase high quality early childhood slots in the City and funded wraparound service grants to support City schools, among other investments.
- **The Wilmington Learning Collaborative (WLC)** was created to provide hyper-focused support for city schools. The WLC's \$10 million budget supports City schools and students.
- **Boost '22-'26** was created to promote cross-district collaboration between the New Castle County Superintendents and is focused on graduation rates for Wilmington students.
- **Early education** has been strengthened across the city and state.
- **Mental health** investments have also been increased statewide, with elementary and middle schools now required to have a 250:1 ratio of students to counselors.

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

- There are numerous examples of excellent work happening at the state and local levels to support Wilmington students, families, and the community. **However, the one remaining area not being addressed is the fractured governance in the City of Wilmington.** Addressing school district reorganization can help ensure all these supports are delivered to students with equity, efficiency, and alignment at the forefront.
- There are currently **16 separate governing units located in the City of Wilmington** and **12 separate governing units outside** of the City of Wilmington, **28 total**, responsible for delivering public education to approximately **11,000 Wilmington children.**

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

The Redding Consortium's path forward for redistricting will be informed by over 20 years of reports and input from engaged community members and passionate advocates.

The consistent message from these reports is that governance must be streamlined to create more effective and equitable change for students.

2001: Wilmington Neighborhood Schools Committee (WNSC)

2008: Wilmington Education Task Force

2015: Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (WEAC)

2016: Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC)

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

In 2001, the Wilmington Neighborhood Schools Committee (WNSC) recommended the City of Wilmington, Red Clay Consolidated School District, and the Brandywine School District would merge to create one school district.

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

In 2008, the Wilmington Education Task Force recommended students living to the east of Market Street be considered part of the Brandywine School District and the students living to the west of Market Street be considered part of Red Clay and to eliminate the Christina and Colonial School districts from the geographic confines of the City of Wilmington.

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

In 2015, the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee recommended streamlining the configuration for traditional school districts operating in Wilmington to better address the needs of Wilmington students and more fully support continuous improvement and community responsiveness.

This process would be done by removing the Christina and Colonial so that these school districts no longer serve Wilmington and allowing the Red Clay, Brandywine, and New Castle County Vocational-Technical (NCC Vo-Tech) school districts to continue to serve Wilmington children.

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

In 2016, the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission recommended the Christina School District should no longer serve the City of Wilmington and focus on serving the students in the western portion of the current district; Red Clay boundaries be altered to include the portion of the City of Wilmington now served by the Christina School District; Colonial and Brandywine continue to serve students who reside in the City of Wilmington within their current boundaries.

Context for Redistricting: *Decades of Momentum*

2001: Wilmington Neighborhood Schools Committee (WNSC)

2008: Wilmington Education Task Force

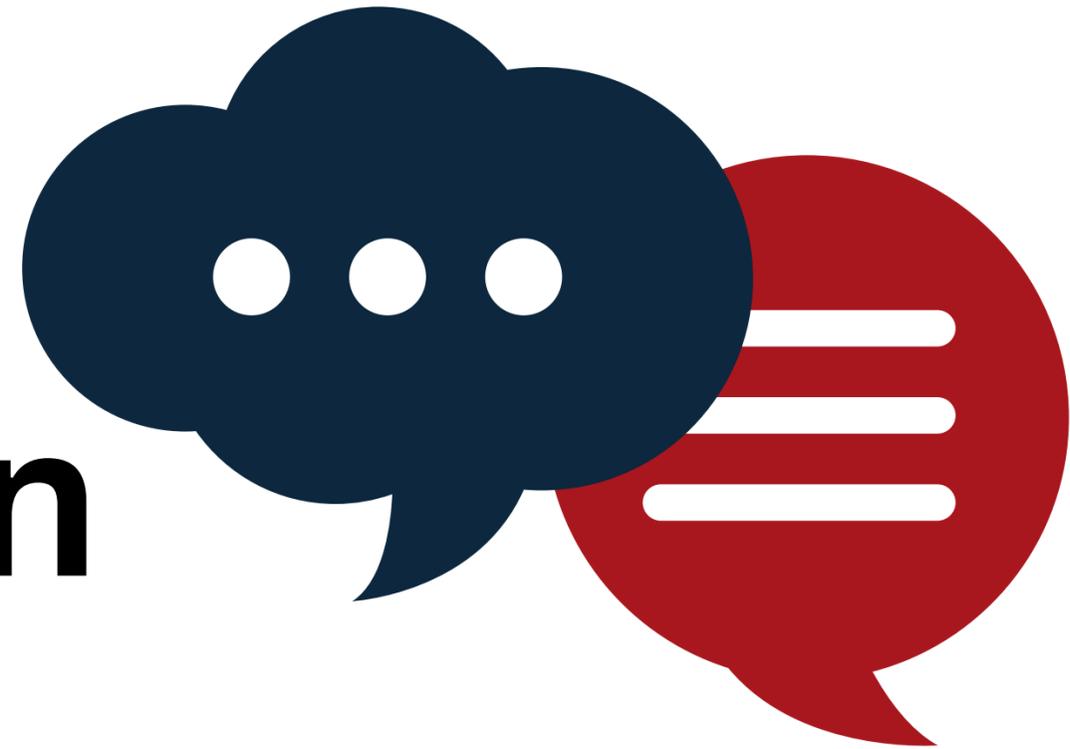
2015: Wilmington Education Advisory Committee

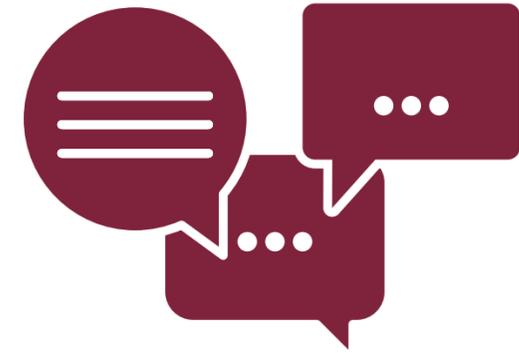
2016: Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

All groups advocated for a reduction in districts serving Wilmington students.

The Redding Consortium will use this research to inform a redistricting proposal in 2024.

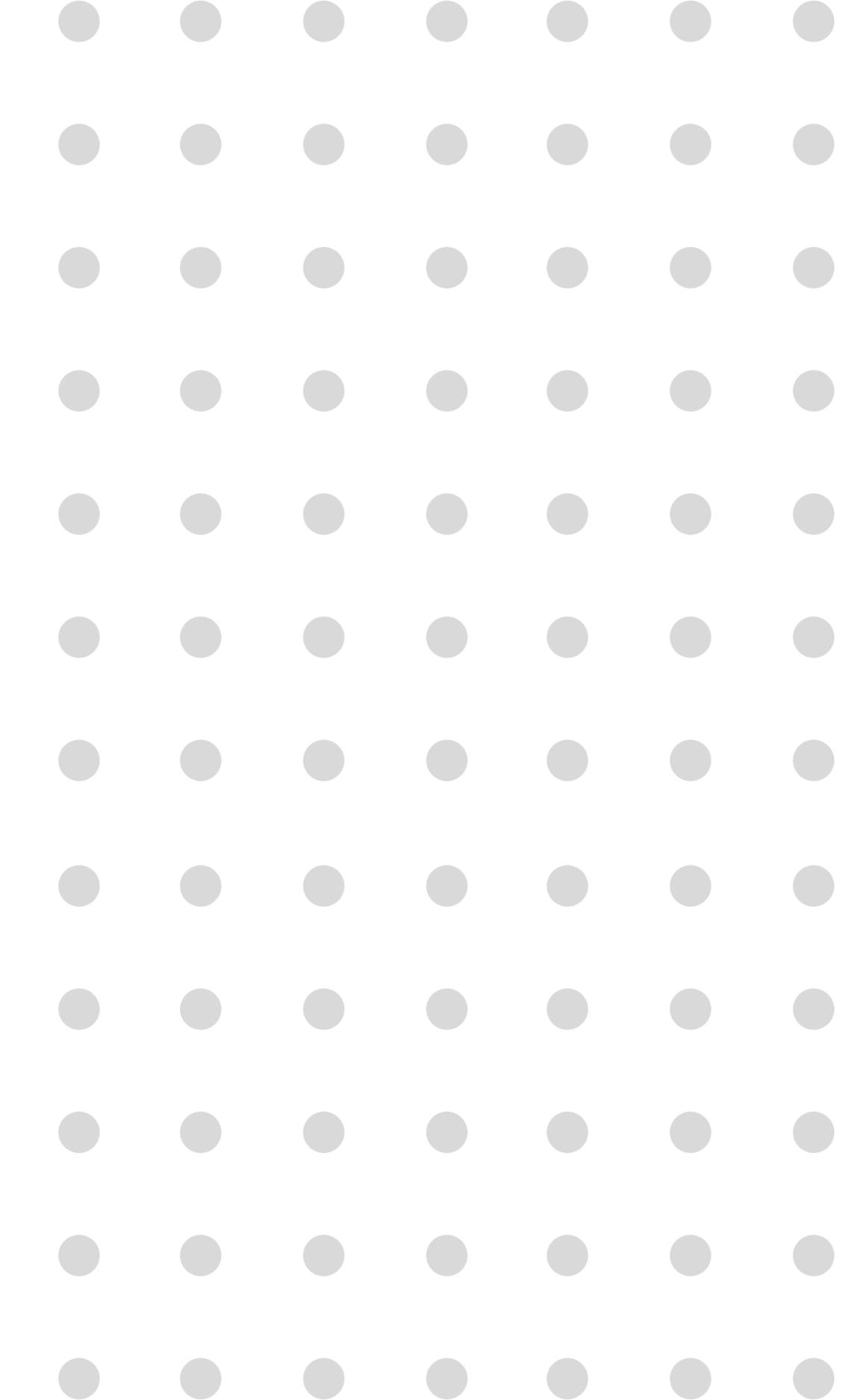
Questions & Discussion





Public Comment

3 minutes per comment, thank you!



Appendix

Slides for reference

Wilmington Student Enrollment in Public Schools 2021–22 School Year

	2021–2022	Percent of Total Student Population
Red Clay Consolidated School District*	3,423	21.0%
Christina School District	1,800	13.60%
Brandywine School District	1,898	18.31%
New Castle County (NCC) Vo-Tech School District	722	15.26%
Edison (Thomas A.) Charter School	568	89.9%
Kuumba Academy Charter School	475	73.9%
East Side Charter School	361	76.5%
Colonial School District	262	2.9%
Great Oaks Charters School	203	93.55%
Academia Antonia Alonso	222	30.92%
Odyssey Charter School	222	10.46%
Freire Charter School Wilmington	218	48.44%
First State Montessori Academy	151	24.0%
Charter School of Wilmington	88	9.1%
Gateway Lab School	51	27.42%
Las Américas ASPIRA Academy	56	4.2%
Delaware Military Academy	25	4.3%
First State Military Academy	20	4.56%

Additionally, the following districts and charter schools serve between 1 and 15 Wilmington students: Appoquinimink School District, Capital School District, Newark Charter School, MOT Charter School, Milford School District, Smyrna School District, Positive Outcomes Charter School, Charter School of New Castle, Early College High School at Delaware State University, and Woodbridge School District.

Source: Delaware Department of Education Data Sets 2021 and 2022.

* In this section, Charter School of Wilmington and Delaware Military Academy are reported as part of the Red Clay Consolidated School District. Ninety Wilmington students were enrolled at Charter School of Wilmington, and 27 were enrolled at the Delaware Military Academy in the 2021–22 school year.