

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

**Co-Chairs:**

**Aaron Bass, CEO, EastSide Charter School**

**Emily Falcon, COO & CFO, Colonial School District**

**February 6, 2025**

# Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Meeting Minutes
- III. Fiscal Impacts Update - Preliminary Data Review
- IV. Action Items and Next Steps for Subcommittee Planning
- V. 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
- Subcommittee members—please type your name in the chat for roll call

# Meeting Minutes



## Redding Consortium: Mission & Redistricting Mandate


The Redding Consortium for Educational Equity was created in 2019 to recommend policies and practices to the Governor and Delaware 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 Delaware.

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

# Redding Consortium: Structure

There are **28 members** on the full body of the Redding Consortium (3 ex-officio, non-voting members)

There are **3 active subcommittees** related to redistricting:

1. Operational Impacts
-  2. Fiscal Impacts
3. Community Engagement

**Staff support** is provided by the Institute for Public Administration at UD and Delaware State University

# Redding Consortium - Approved Interim Plan

The interim plan was approved by the Consortium on May 9, 2024.

Key areas of the plan include:

- **18-month timeline** to create final redistricting plan
- **Subcommittee structure** to create final redistricting plan related to the 13 stipulations
- **A focus on two or fewer districts serving City of Wilmington students** and the removal of the Christina School District from the City of Wilmington
- **Social drivers of health and education landscape analysis** focused on City of Wilmington and Northern New Castle County
  - Currently being conducted by the American Institutes of Research
- A framework for a final redistricting plan to include more **detail on broad policy reforms** related to revenue, state investment, and charter and choice reform.

# Redding Consortium - 13 Stipulations for Redistricting

## **Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee will address:**

- Resources that will be required, from state, district, and local sources, to support the redistricting transition and provide for the effective ongoing education of all affected students, and for the support of schools with high concentrations of low-income students and English learners.
- Distribution of capital assets and financial obligations or a process for such distribution.
- A stipulation that the funding statewide and locally will facilitate effective implementation of the proposed comprehensive plan in a manner that will improve the educational outcomes for all of the students impacted by that plan.



# 13 Stipulations for Redistricting - cont'd.

## **Operational Impacts Subcommittee will address:**

- The orderly and minimally disruptive reassignment of students affected by the boundary change and the reassignment of governance responsibilities.
- The plan must permit students to continue their attendance at the school they attended prior to the boundary change with tuition payments made by the sending district as provided in [Chapter 6](#) [tuition charges] of this title until such time as the pupils complete the grade levels offered in that school.
- Student transportation.
- A timetable for implementing each element of the redistricting plan and the designated responsibility for carrying out responsibilities until the date of full implementation.

## **Community Engagement Subcommittee will address:**

- Implications for educators, administrators, and other personnel that may lead to equitable adjustments to local collective bargaining agreements.
- Engagement of educators, staff, parents, district personnel, and community members throughout the transition.
- An assessment of the educational needs of city of Wilmington students and the resources required to meet those needs.
- Directives for improving secondary education options for city of Wilmington students, such as the provision of additional secondary schools.
- A process for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the educational impacts and outcomes of implementation, which will include an annual report by the Consortium to the Governor, the General Assembly, the Secretary of Education, and the State Board of Education.

# Redding Consortium - Redistricting Planning Process

## **Subcommittee Framework, subcommittees will:**

- Be focused on the impact of planning around the reassignment of students from the city of Wilmington that are currently in the Christina School District
- Determine the optimal way two or fewer districts may serve city of Wilmington students as stated in the interim plan

## **Process and timeline:**

- This framework will guide the subcommittees' planning and research.
- Community engagement will be a core part of all of the subcommittees' work
- Broader policy reform planning will occur alongside the redistricting effort.



## **Fiscal Impacts Update - Preliminary Data Review**

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - Planning Process Update

## **Subcommittee co-chair updates since the 12/17 fiscal impacts meeting:**

- Updated the data tracker to include questions asked from the subcommittee
- Met with the CFOs of the Christina School District and Red Clay Consolidated School District to review and discuss preliminary financial data
- Received information from DSEA about salary contracts for educators and contracted staff

# Preliminary Financial Data Review for the Christina School District

## Total Impact Local Tax Receipts Local Expense

Category	Expense/Receipts
All Wilmington Local Expenses	\$ (16,021,313.79)
*All Wilmington Charter Payments	\$ (8,734,602.27)
**All Wilmington Tax Receipts	\$ 6,208,905.74
Total Wilmington Local Funding Shortage	\$ (18,547,010.32)

**\*\*Wilmington Tax Receipts from all tax parcels in CSD Wilmington feeder**

**\*Charter Payments for Wilmington students attending any charter school**

***Note: This is a financial analysis compiled based on current district data as of 02/05/2025***

# Financial Planning Considerations for the Subcommittee



## Big picture takeaways:

- The preliminary financial data shared provides important context about the current educational funding landscape for the city of Wilmington and northern New Castle County
- **Delta** - the current and ongoing educational funding gap for city of Wilmington students in CSD
- Understanding the bigger picture of the financial impacts for all of the school districts serving the city of Wilmington

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## Big picture takeaways:

- The preliminary financial data shared provides important context about the current educational funding landscape for the city of Wilmington and northern New Castle County
- **Delta** - the current and ongoing educational funding gap for city of Wilmington students in CSD
- Understanding the bigger picture of the fiscal impacts for all of the districts serving the city of Wilmington

## Reviewing the data through a policy lens – focusing on educational equity:

- This financial issue underscores the history of funding inequities that have long impacted city students
- This subcommittee's work can provide valuable fiscal impacts data and insights for the Redding Consortium
- \$19 million shortfall for Wilmington CSD schools; other areas of the state also face similar fiscal concerns
- Working with the Consortium on broader reform policies that will address these funding inequities

# Preliminary Financial Data Review - Current Planning Status Report

Activity	Status	Costs	Next Steps	Revised Costs
Determine tax receipts from CSD-Wilmington in question.	Complete	<b>+\$6.2 M</b>	Revise based on property reassessment estimates	
Determine per pupil costs of CSD-Wilmington schools to determine the DELTA between tax receipts and current expenditures.  Break down between direct costs and charter payment costs	Complete	<b>-\$19.9 M</b>		
Determine the cost to replicate those per-pupil costs at other district—city schools	Ongoing			
Determine other costs related to taking on additional schools/students...i.e. costs that are typically allocated across districts and not included in the analysis above.	Ongoing			
<b>*Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - current financial planning and cost estimates as of 02/05/2025</b>				



# Preliminary Financial Data Review - Current Planning Status Report (continued)

Activity	Status	Costs	Next Steps	Revised Costs
Determine costs of any recommendations made by the Operational Impacts Subcommittee. Include costs related to choice payments/receipts for students choosing to remain, etc.	Waiting on the Operational Impacts Subcommittee			
Determine costs of any recommendations made by the other Redding redistricting subcommittees	Waiting on other subcommittees			
Determine any one-time costs related to movement of schools/students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● i.e. curricular alignment costs, facility costs</li> </ul>				
Outstanding Debt Considerations				
Final Costs	In progress			

***\*Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - current financial planning and cost estimates as of 02/05/2025***



## Financial Planning Considerations for the Subcommittee

### Reviewing the data through a policy lens – focusing on educational equity:

- This financial issue underscores the history of funding inequities that have impacted city students
- The subcommittee’s work can provide valuable financial data & insights for the Consortium
- \$19 million shortfall for Wilmington CSD schools; other areas of the state also face similar fiscal issues
- Working with the Consortium on broader reform policies that will address these funding inequities
  - **Redding Consortium’s approved interim plan:** a framework for a final redistricting plan to include more detail on broad policy reforms related to ***revenue, state investment, and charter and choice reform.***

## Big Ideas - Potential Policy Reforms Outlined in the Approved Interim Plan

The following policy reforms are proposed ideas for consideration by the Consortium outlined in the [approved interim plan](#) that may or may not be included in a final redistricting plan:

### Revenue Policy Reforms:

- **Referendum Reform**
  - Recommendations for amending or eliminating referenda for non-capital issues to ensure decision-makers can focus their capacity on student and educator needs.
- **Evaluation of the New Castle County Tax District**
  - Exploration of opportunities to utilize this tax pool for immediate resourcing of transitional activities.
  - Recommendations for addressing the NCC Tax District including how the effects of reassessment, funding reform, and redistricting impact the viability or continued necessity of this existing tax district. *The district was originally created to achieve resource equity among districts involved in the desegregation order.*

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### **State investment in impacted schools/districts:**

***Above and beyond current allocations including Opportunity Funding, the state of Delaware should ensure sustainable investment in the following areas:***

- High-Quality Early Learning Expansion
- Premium Pay Policy in highest need schools
- Support for the development of specialized programs at Wilmington elementary schools moving to a new receiving school district;
- Enhanced Wraparound Services
- Social Drivers of Health and Education Landscape Analysis for the city of Wilmington and northern New Castle County, Delaware

## Big Ideas - Potential Policy Reforms Outlined in the Approved Interim Plan

*The following policy reforms are proposed ideas for consideration by the Consortium outlined in the [approved interim plan](#) that may or may not be included in a final redistricting plan:*

### **Choice & Charter Reform**

- **School choice** - recommendations for changes to enhance equity in policies and practices associated with student assignment and school choice.
- **Charter school & district coordination** - recommendations for changes in policies and practices to improve coordination and collaboration among districts and charter schools serving students in the city of Wilmington and northern New Castle County, including potential changes in the authorization of charter schools.

# Questions and Discussion



## Next Steps

- Discuss additional research and planning for the subcommittee
- Enter questions into [data tracker](#)
- Schedule next subcommittee meeting - if needed
- **Redding Consortium Subcommittee Retreat - March 15 from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.**
  - Three subcommittees will convene to discuss questions and form a path forward
  - American Institutes of Research (AIR) will join to provide an update on the Landscape Analysis
  - Members of the public are welcome to join

# **Public Comment**

2 minutes per individual



# **Thank you!**

Questions? Contact:

Alaina Robinson, Policy Specialist II

[alainar@udel.edu](mailto:alainar@udel.edu)