

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee Meeting

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

December 17, 2024



# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Redistricting Historical Context
- Review of the Subcommittee's Charge, Overview, and Goals
- Discussion of Data Needs for the Subcommittee
- Questions as we are still gathering information
- 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

# Introductions



# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee Membership

## Co-Chairs:

- **Aaron Bass**, Chief Executive Officer, EastSide Charter School
- **Emily Falcon**, COO/CFO, Colonial School District

## Subcommittee members:

- **Ted Ammann**, CFO, Red Clay Consolidated School District
- **Jill Floore**, CFO, Brandywine School District
- **Bob Vacca**, CFO, Christina School District
- **Sean Sokolowski**, Director of Business, NCCVT
- **David Blowman**, CFO, Community Education Building
- **Taylor Hawk**, Director of Legislative and Political Strategy, Delaware State Education Association
- **Maria Matos**, President and CEO, Latin American Community Center
- **Ray Fitzgerald**, Chair of the Wilmington Community Advisory Council; Director, Wilmington Housing Authority
- **Eric Buckson**, State Senator, SD 16
- **Nick Konzelman** (Director of OMB's Approved Designee) (*ex-officio*), Chief Education Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, Delaware
- **Richard Geisenberger** (Secretary of Finance or Approved Designee) (*ex-officio*)
- **Laura Burgos** (WLC liaison) (*ex-officio*), WLC Executive Director

# Redistricting Historical Context



# Redding Consortium: Mission

The Redding Consortium for Educational Equity was created 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.

# 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.

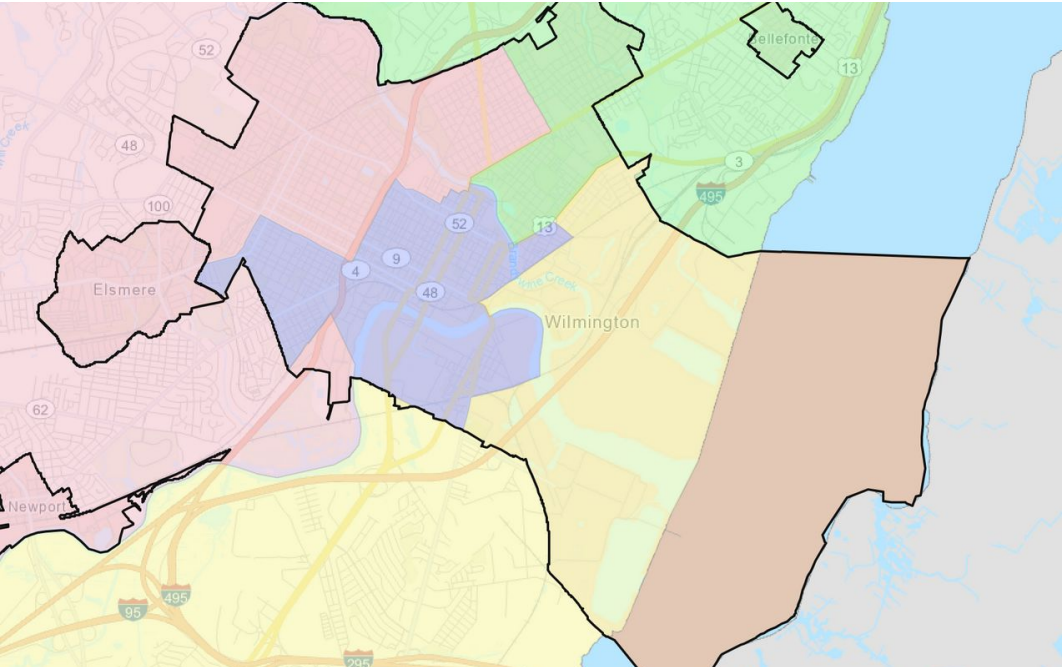
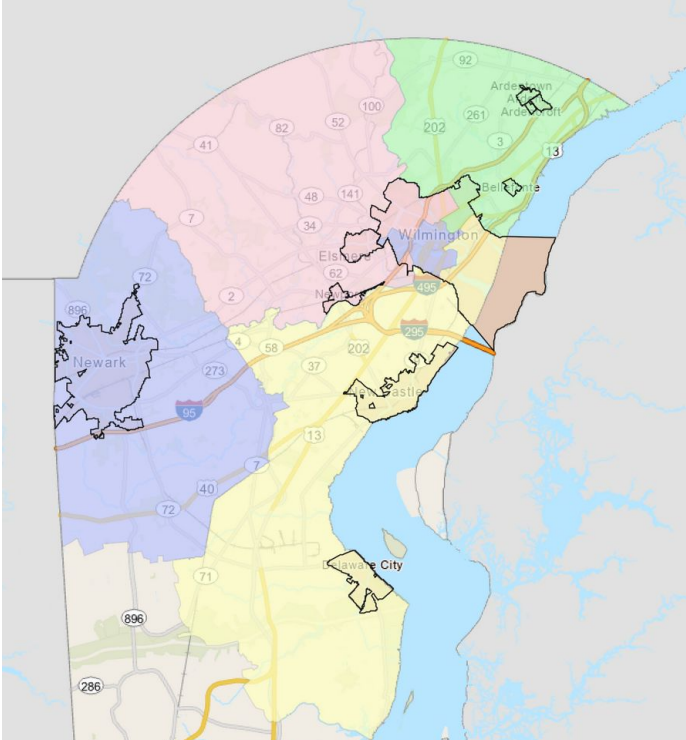
“The Consortium shall develop a proposal for redistricting in the city of Wilmington and northern New Castle County that will include provisions stipulated in concurrent legislation formulated specifically for that purpose with designated responsibilities and timelines for action at all levels.” - **Senate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



# Redistricting Historical Context

- There are currently **twenty-eight separate governing units**, including 16 located in the city of Wilmington, responsible for delivering public education to approximately **11,000 Wilmington children**.
- There has been progress made in collaboration to support Wilmington students, but governance for students must be streamlined to create more effective and equitable change.
- The Redding Consortium's path forward for redistricting is informed by over twenty years of reports and input from engaged community members and passionate advocates.
- ***Decades of Previous Redistricting Efforts:***
  - The Neighborhood Schools Committee (2001)
  - Wilmington Education Task Force (2008)
  - Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (2015)
  - Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (2016)

# Current City of Wilmington School District Boundaries



Source: Institute for Public Administration, 2024

- Brandywine
- Christina
- Colonial
- Red Clay

## Transition from WEIC to Redding

- The WEIC plan failed to pass the General Assembly and efforts toward redistricting have stalled since.
- The Redding Consortium was created in 2019 with one of its main charges to address redistricting. There was a significant effort in 2019-2020 towards redistricting, however, these priorities had to shift due to the COVID-19 pandemic and extra strain and demands on schools, districts, students, and families.
- The Redding Consortium has recently reignited these efforts to fulfill its charge. There was a full proposal developed, but members felt it moved too fast. Therefore, the Redding Consortium utilized its ability to create an interim plan that is more high level to ensure progress moves forward.

# Where Are We Now?



# Redding Consortium - Approved Interim Plan

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


Key areas of the plan include:

- **The Removal of the Christina School District from the City of Wilmington**
  - In any redistricting approach put forward, it is recommended that the Christina School District be removed from the city of Wilmington
- **18-month timeline to create final redistricting plan**
- **Subcommittee structure to create final redistricting plan**
  - Operational Impacts Subcommittee
  - Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee
  - Community Engagement Subcommittee

# Redding Consortium - Approved Interim Plan

- **Social Drivers of Health and Education Landscape Analysis for the City of Wilmington and Northern New Castle County, Delaware**
  - Facilitate a landscape analysis to examine the broader ecosystem around the implications of lived conditions that impact students and families before and after school
- **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.**

# Proposed Process Timeline



Date	Description	Responsible
Dec 2024	<b>Full Body Meeting</b> & Landscape Analysis Launch	Redding / AIR
Jan 2025	Subcommittees host 1st meeting	Subcommittees
Feb 2025	<b>AIR Formative Report #1</b> - will include preliminary discoveries	AIR
Mar 2025	<b>Subcommittee Convening #1</b> - Saturday, 6 hours w/ lunch -This retreat will include community-centered participation	Redding
April 2025	<b>Subcommittees host meeting and/or full body meeting</b> Subcommittee co-chairs meet to discuss alignment	Subcommittees/ Redding
May 2025	<b>AIR Formative Report #2</b> - will include school-level and neighborhood-level analyses and the early themes of stakeholder focus groups	AIR
June 2025	<b>Subcommittee Convening #2</b> - Saturday, 6 hours w/ lunch -This retreat will include community-centered participation	Redding

AIR Formative Report = 

Redding Subcommittee Convening = 

Redding Full Body Vote on Redistricting Plan = 

# Proposed Process Timeline

Date	Description	Responsible
July 2025	Subcommittees host meetings & co-chairs meet to discuss alignment	Subcommittees
Aug 2025	<b>AIR Formative Report #3</b> - will include the finalized neighborhood-level and school-level analyses w/ the final themes from the stakeholder interviews and focus groups	AIR
Aug - Sep 2025	<b>Subcommittee Convening #3 w/ AIR Community Co-Interpretation Event</b> - Saturday, 6 hours w/ lunch	Redding & AIR
Sep 2025	Public hearings	Redding
Oct 2025	<b>Finalize Redistricting Plan (minus AIR final findings)</b> -Subcommittees host meeting and/or Full Body meeting	Subcommittees
Oct 2025	<b>Final AIR Formative Report #4</b> - will include final analyses of all the above data sources as well as community feedback and insights from the co-interpretation event	AIR
Nov 2025	<b>Finalize Redistricting Plan w/ AIR Findings</b>	Redding



# Proposed Process Timeline

Date	Description	Responsible
Dec 2025	<b>Full Body Meeting - Redding Vote on Final Redistricting Plan</b>	Redding
Jan 2026	Submit Final Plan to the State Board of Education	Redding
Feb 2026	SBE has 90 days to review	SBE
Mar 2026	SBE has 90 days to review	SBE
Apr 2026	SBE has 90 days to review	SBE
May 2026	Controller General's Office Reviews Plan Submit Final Redistricting Plan to General Assembly	CG/Redding
Jun 2026	General Assembly Votes on Redistricting Plan	GA

# **Review of the Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee's Charge, Overview, and Goals**



# Subcommittee Membership

## Three subcommittees include:

- Operational Impacts
- Fiscal Impacts
- Community Engagement



Selection is based on Redding Consortium members' expressed interests, areas of expertise and experience, and community representation on the Consortium

Appointees who are not members of the Consortium have been placed on recommended subcommittees as designees by district superintendents, DSEA, and the charter school leads on the Redding Consortium

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - Charge & Overview

## **This subcommittee may work to address these stipulations:**

- 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.

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee Membership

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- **Emily Falcon**, COO/CFO, Colonial School District

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- **Laura Burgos** (WLC liaison) (*ex-officio*), WLC Executive Director

# Redding Consortium - Redistricting Planning Structure



## **Big Ideas Project Chairs**

- Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman -Co-Chair, State Senator, Senate District 3
- Matthew Denn -Co-Chair, Managing Director, Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation

## **Redistricting Project Chair**

- Nnamdi Chukwuocha, State Representative, Representative District 1

## **Advisory/technical support (DDOE)**

- Secretary Mark Holodick/Deputy Secretary Cora Scott - ex-officio
- Lisa Henry and Paulette Gaddy

## **Vacant (awaiting appointment)**

- House Minority Caucus Member

# 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.

# **Discussion of Data Needs for the Subcommittee**





# Fiscal Impact Scope

## **30 Day: from 12/17 to 1/17**

- Seek questions regarding the fiscal impact of redistricting

## **60 Day: 12/17 to 2/17**

- Develop and pressure test proposals with our liaisons and committee members

## **90 Day: 12/17 to 3/17**

- Submit final proposal to Redding Consortium of the fiscal needs and the plan moving forward.

# Fiscal Impacts Data Questions - Data Requests Tracker

Data Requests	Date Submitted	Who Requested (in case follow-up needed)
What is the current value of the tax base in the City of Wilmington?	11/5	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
What is the value of the property that will be shifting from Christina and Colonial to Red Clay and Brandywine (discretely by district)?	11/5	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
What is the value of the tax base of the suburban portion of Christina?	11/5	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
Is there any way to create a tool that would allow for tax revenue modeling when district boundaries are changed?	11/5	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
Can anyone provide a 'City of Wilmington only' slice of state funding? (Isolating just the units and other funding associated with the students living in the city).	11/5	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
Is there any debt on the buildings in Christina which would need to be taken over by Red Clay.	11/5	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
What is the per pupil funding for students in Wilmington for Christina, Colonial and Red Clay?	11/13	Fiscal impacts co-chairs
What is the salary scale for teachers in these districts?	11/13	Fiscal impacts co-chairs

## Gathering Data Needs and Input from the Subcommittee

### Redding Subcommittees Data Request Tracker:

- The co-chairs have been compiling a list of subcommittee data questions in this data request tracker
- Redding staff will coordinate with the appropriate entity to get these questions answered and note any follow-up items

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - Data Questions

- What is the current value of the tax base in the City of Wilmington?
- What is the value of the property that will be shifting from Christina and Colonial to Red Clay and Brandywine (discretely by district)?
- What is the value of the tax base of the suburban portion of Christina?
- Is there any way to create a tool that would allow for tax revenue modeling when district boundaries are changed?
- Can anyone provide a 'City of Wilmington only' slice of state funding? (Isolating just the units and other funding associated with the students living in the city).
- Is there any debt on the buildings in Christina which would need to be taken over by Red Clay.
- What is the per pupil funding for students in Wilmington for Christina, Colonial and Red Clay?
- What is the salary scale for teachers in these districts?

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - Data Questions

- Would the redistricting result in any physical school property being redistributed between districts?
- If so, would the debt payments on outstanding 20 year bonds be redistributed to the new District?
- Can the Treasurer's Office split the bond payments between districts if there were multiple schools renovated from the same bond sale?
- Would a Districts approved local referendum rate (if higher) be imposed on the transferred properties even though the residents did not vote for it?
- There would be a local burden on the receiving District, which could be significant. Would that District be able to raise its tax rate without going to referendum?
- What are the boundaries of each proposed new district under the redistricting plan?

# Fiscal Impacts Subcommittee - Data Questions

- Would the District that is losing the students transfer a proportionate amount of the following funds to the new district?
- It seems that if a taxpayer has paid into a system, those funds should follow their property. Similarly, if a District has earned State funds based on students that they no longer have, the funds should be transferred with the students.
  - JUUL Litigation funds (based on # of students)
  - CSCRP (based on # of students)
  - Tuition Tax (based on assessed values)
  - Local Funds (based on assessed values)
  - Match taxes (based on assessed values)
  - Indirect Costs (based on students)
  - ESCO repayments
  - State Minor Cap Funds
  - State Enhanced Minor Cap Funds
  - State CTE funds

# Overlapping Operational Impacts Subcommittee Questions

- Would all property and furniture within the school be transferred as well?
- If district-owned busses were used to transport the students, would the district transfer the corresponding busses to the new students?
- For the District that is losing the students, would there be a grace period for the District to cut Teacher, Para's, custodians, child nutrition, secretaries, and administrators that are lost due to a lower unit count?
- For the students:
  - If they are currently in a program not offered by the new District, would they continue to have access to that program? An example would be Spanish Immersion.
  - Would the Students need to transfer to new schools in the middle of their education?
    - For example: 3rd grade, 10th grade, etc. If not, would they be able to finish out their term at their current school before transferring?

# Overlapping Community Engagement Subcommittee Questions

- Was there any thought as to which per pupil funding and what salary scale will be used for teachers moving into Red Clay SD?
- Would the staff automatically transfer to the new district, or would they need to interview? Would their pay remain the same if the old district pay is higher than the new district? If their pay remains the same, would they forego future State raises until the salary scales from their new district had caught up to their salaries?
  - I believe local benefits are the same for all NCC districts, but the amount of flex credits between districts vary.
  - Would the flex credits stay the same if they were higher in their old district?
  - Would they lose their local bargaining contract and fall under the new bargaining contract?
  - Would the Association members lose their seniority?



**Questions as we are still gathering information**



## Next Meeting

1/21: EastSide Charter (New STEM HUB): 6PM to 7PM

- Address: 3000 N Claymont St, Wilmington, DE 19802

# Public Comment

2 minutes per individual