



Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

History of Redistricting Overview Presentation

March 2025

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.**

Progress in the Educational Landscape



Progress in the Educational Landscape

Since 2001, reports and groups focused on education governance have also continuously called for:

- **Increased funding and support** for students from low-income families, students with disabilities, and English 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 not fully solved, the state has made significant progress in addressing these areas through:

Educational equity lawsuit resulting in:

- **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.
- For all capital projects, school districts must submit an **equity statement**

New school configurations and investments in Wilmington:

- 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

- **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 Boost '22-'26 initiative** was created to promote cross-district collaboration between the New Castle County Superintendents and is focused on graduation rates for Wilmington students.
- **Early childhood education** has been strengthened across the city and state through the expansion of the state-contracted full-day Pre-K program
- **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.

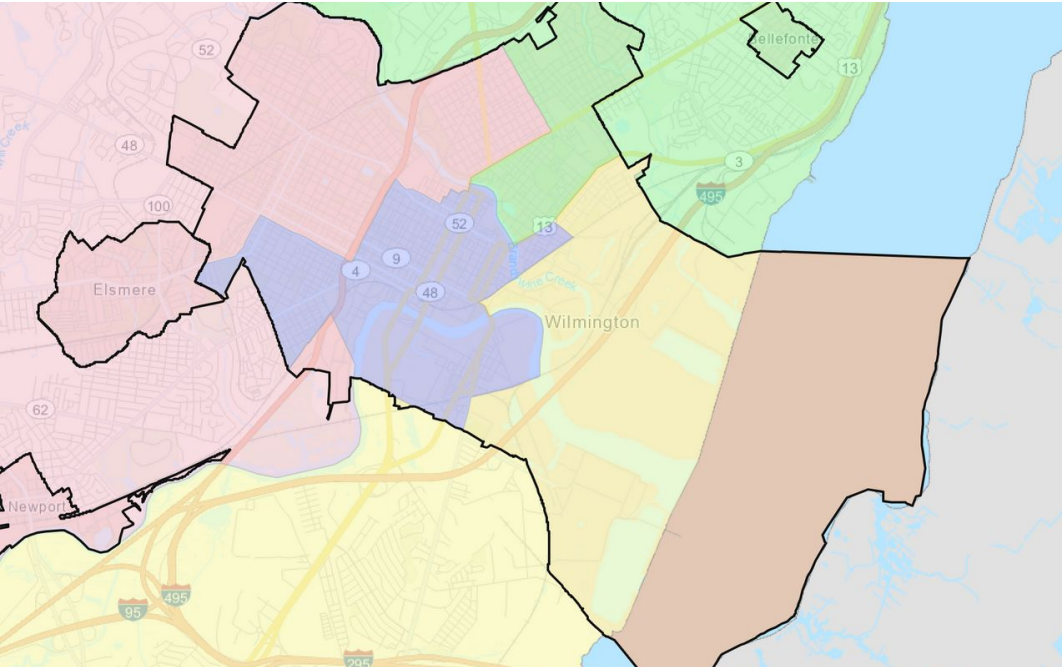
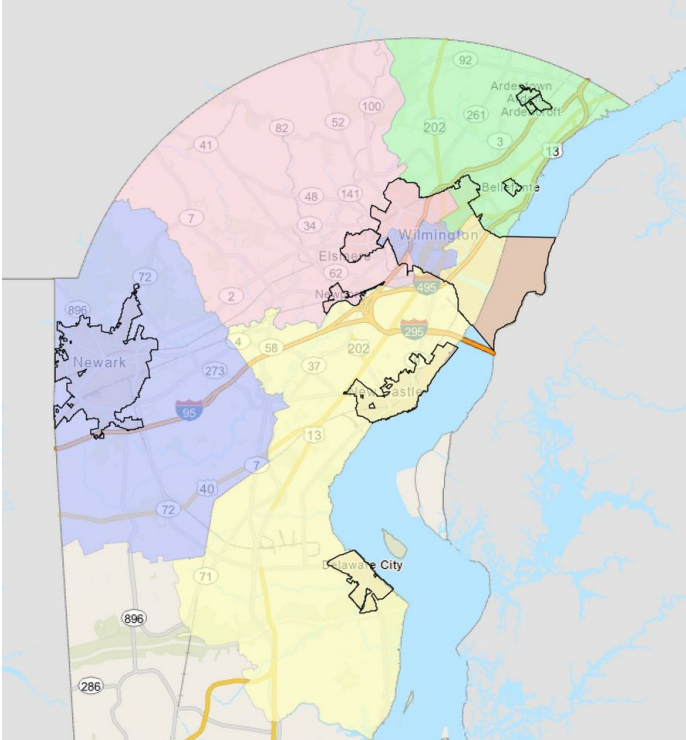
Decades of Redistricting Efforts



Decades of Efforts

- There are numerous other examples of excellent work happening at the state and local levels to support Wilmington students, families, and the community.
- **The one remaining area not being addressed is the fractured governance in the city of Wilmington.**
- Addressing the school district reorganization piece of the puzzle can help ensure all these supports discussed above are streamlined and delivered to students with equity, efficiency, and alignment at the forefront.

Current City of Wilmington School District Boundaries



Source: Institute for Public Administration, 2024

- Brandywine**
- Christina**
- Colonial**
- Red Clay**

Redistricting Historical Context

- There are currently **23 separate governing units (public school districts and charter school LEAs)**, including **11 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.

Decades of Previous Redistricting Efforts

- **The Wilmington Neighborhood Schools Committee (WNSC, 2001)** - the WNSC recommended focusing on **combining the city of Wilmington with the Red Clay and the Brandywine School Districts** to create a consolidated school district that shares students from these districts and forms a common local tax base.
- **Wilmington Education Task Force (2008)** - The taskforce recommended to **reduce the number of regular school districts serving Wilmington to two districts instead of four.**
- **Wilmington Education Advisory Committee (WEAC, 2015)** - WEAC recommended **removing the Christina and Colonial School Districts** so they 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.
- **Wilmington Education Improvement Commission (WEIC, 2016)** - WEIC recommended that 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.

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?



Approved Interim Plan

The [interim plan](#) was approved by the Consortium in May 2024. Key areas of the plan include:

- **The Removal of the Christina School District** 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
- **Social drivers of health and education landscape analysis** for the city of Wilmington and northern NCC, Delaware to examine the 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.

Redding Consortium's Proposed Process Timeline

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

Redding Consortium's Proposed Process Timeline

| Date | Description | Responsible |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| July 2025 | Subcommittees host meetings & co-chairs meet to discuss alignment | Subcommittees |
| Aug 2025 | AIR Formative Report #3 - 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 | Subcommittee Convening #3 w/ AIR Community Co-Interpretation Event - Saturday, 6 hours w/ lunch | Redding & AIR |
| Sep 2025 | Public hearings | Redding |
| Oct 2025 | Finalize Redistricting Plan (minus AIR final findings) -Subcommittees host meeting and/or Full Body meeting | Subcommittees |
| Oct 2025 | Final AIR Formative Report #4 - 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 | Finalize Redistricting Plan w/ AIR Findings | Redding |

Redding Consortium's Proposed Process Timeline

| Date | Description | Responsible |
|----------|---|-------------|
| Dec 2025 | Full Body Meeting - Redding Vote on Final Redistricting Plan | 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 |