

Strong Schools Town Halls

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

State Senator Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman, Senate District 3

Matt Denn, Redding Consortium Co-Chair

State Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha, Representative District 1

Councilwoman Maria D. Cabrera, Councilmember At-Large,
Wilmington City Council

Taylor Hawk, DSEA, Director of Legislative & Political Strategy

May 22, 2025

Welcome & Town Hall Overview

- A Vision for Strong Public Schools
- A Brief History of Redistricting
- Redistricting Planning & Process
- ***Community Conversation***
- Recap & Next Steps
- Public Comment



A Vision for Strong Public Schools

Senator Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman

A Vision for Strong Public Schools



Every child deserves access to **a great school** and **a high-quality education**, no matter where they live or their background.

Changing school district boundaries won't solve everything, but it's an **important first step** to bring school communities together.

This is part of a **bigger plan** to improve schools and support stronger, more connected communities.

Vision: Stronger Schools and Unified Communities

We want all students to excel in school by expanding access to the academic resources and supports that can better meet their needs.



Redding Consortium: Mission

The Redding Consortium was created in 2019 to recommend policies and practices to the Governor and Delaware General Assembly that will improve educational equity for students.

Our goal is to improve academic and learning outcomes for all students in Pre-K through 12th grade in the city of Wilmington and northern New Castle County.

The Consortium is mandated by the state to develop a redistricting plan (Senate Bill 148; House Bills 222 & 229).

We are working to expand opportunities so that every student has access to a world-class education.





A Brief History of Redistricting in the City of Wilmington

Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha

Redistricting Historical Context

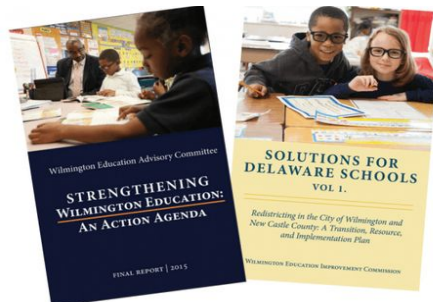
There are **18 public schools** located in the **city of Wilmington**, serving about **11,000 students**.

Over the years, school leaders and community members have worked together to help improve education for Wilmington students. Today, the system is still too complex, and we need a **more unified way to support all students and schools**.

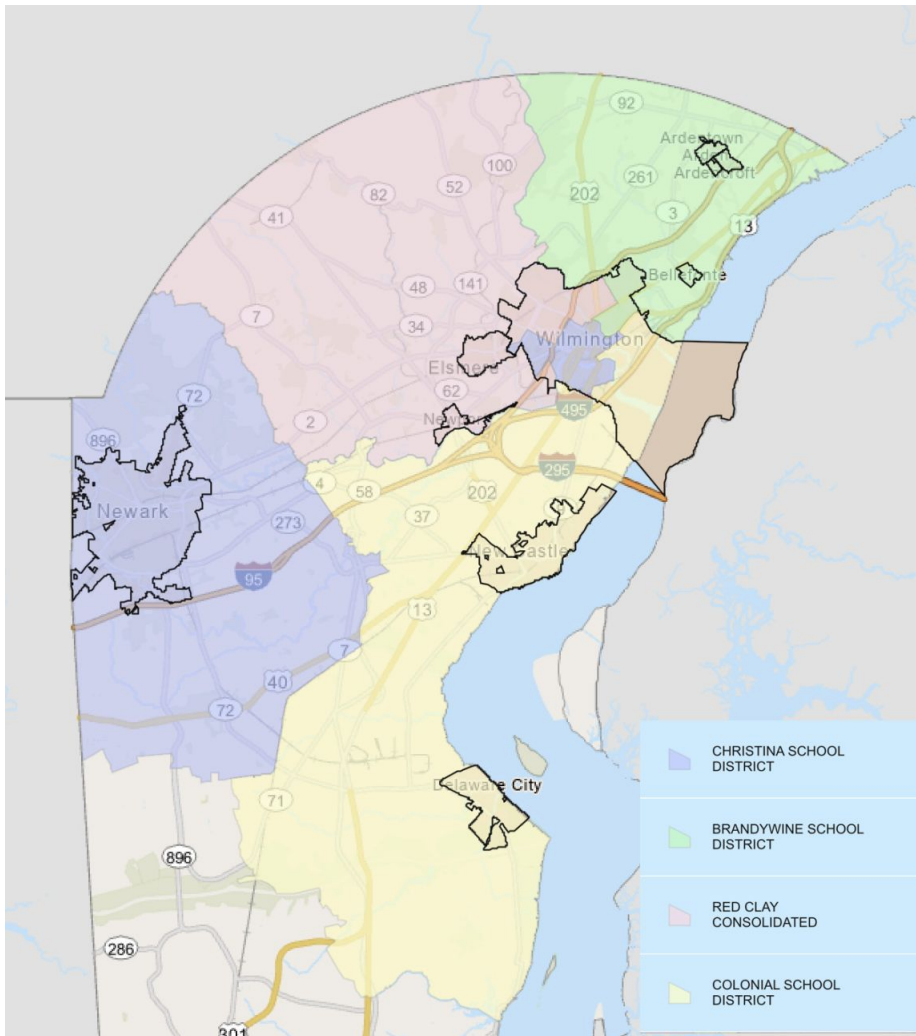
The Redding Consortium is using **over 20 years of reports** and **community input** to guide our work.

Decades of Past Redistricting Efforts:

- Wilmington 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



— Municipal Boundary Line

Brandywine

Christina

Colonial

Red Clay

Source: *Institute for Public Administration, 2024*



Redistricting Planning & Process

Senator Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman

Redding Consortium - Approved Interim Plan

The interim plan was approved by the Consortium on May 9, 2024 and affirmed by the General Assembly

- The interim plan framework outlines that **no more than two school districts** should serve city of Wilmington students, focusing on removing the Christina School District from serving the city.

Key areas of the plan include:

- **18-Month Timeline (May 2024 - December 2025)** - the Redding Consortium has 18 months to develop a final redistricting plan.
- **Subcommittees** - three groups working to address the 13 stipulations for the final Redding plan.
- **Landscape Analysis** - the American Institutes for Research (**AIR**) is conducting a study about the factors outside of school that impact students' educational outcomes.
- **“Big Ideas” for Policy Reform** - the final plan will also explore big-picture policy reform ideas related to school funding, state investment, and charter schools and school choice reform.

Big Ideas - Policies to Consider

These policy reforms are ideas outlined in the [approved interim plan](#) that may or may not be included in a final redistricting plan:

Big Ideas:

- **Revenue Policy** - Referendum Reform, New Castle County Tax District Pool Reform
- **State Investments in Education - in addition to the current levels of Opportunity Funding**
 - Expanding access to high-quality early learning programs
 - Supplementing premium pay to teachers who work in high-needs schools
 - Adding specialized magnet programs to elementary schools in the new district(s)
 - Improving access to before-school, after-school, and summer programs for students
- **School Choice** - Charter School & District Coordination

Redding Consortium's Proposed Process Timeline



May 2025

- Community Town Halls
- Redding Full Body Meeting

June 2025

- Community Town Halls
- AIR - Report 2
- Subcommittee Retreat

July 2025

- Subcommittees host meetings

August & September 2025

- AIR - Report 3
- Subcommittee Retreat
- Public Hearings

October 2025

- Draft Redistricting Plan
- AIR - Final Report

November 2025

- Finalize Redistricting Plan with AIR's findings

December 2025

- Redding full body meeting vote on final plan

January 2026

- Submit final plan to the State Board of Education in January (90 days to review the plan)

May 2026

- Controller General's Office Reviews Plan

June 2026

- Submit Final Redistricting Plan to General Assembly
- General Assembly Votes on Redistricting Plan



Community Priorities & Values

Councilwoman Maria D. Cabrera

Community Priorities & Values

Your voice matters and **we want to hear from you!**

We'll have a **45-minute community conversation.**

- We will discuss **three guiding questions** about co-creating a vision for improving public education - **15 minutes per question.**



A Few Important Reminders

This will not be the only time we gather feedback. There will be multiple opportunities to share your input at other Redding Consortium town hall meetings and events.

No decisions have been made about changing school boundary lines.

We are focused on hearing from the community about your values and key priorities.

We will use this feedback to inform considerations about potential redistricting options.

Note: Please save any questions or comments about the process for the public comment section. Thank you!

Community Priorities & Values

Question 1:

What do you think makes a great school and a great school system? Please share.



Community Priorities & Values

Question 2:

What are the educational resources, programs, or services that help to meet the needs of all students?



Community Priorities & Values

Question 3:

After looking at the list of big ideas in the approved interim plan, which ones stand out to you the most and why? How could these big ideas help schools to better support students?

Some examples of the “Big Ideas” for policy reform include:



**Specialized Magnet Programs
for Elementary Schools**



**High-Quality Early Learning
For Pre-K Students**



**Premium Pay for Educators in
High-Needs Schools**

Big Ideas - Policies to Consider

These policy reforms are ideas outlined in the [approved interim plan](#) that may or may not be included in a final redistricting plan:

Big Ideas:

- **Revenue Policy** - Referendum Reform, New Castle County Tax District Pool Reform
- **State Investments in Education - in addition to the current levels of Opportunity Funding**
 - Expanding access to high-quality early learning programs
 - Supplementing premium pay to teachers who work in high-needs schools
 - Adding specialized magnet programs to elementary schools in the new district(s)
 - Improving access to before-school, after-school, and summer programs for students
- **School Choice** - Charter School & District Coordination

Next Steps

Redding Full Body Meeting

May 27, 2025 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

More Town Halls Coming in June - TBD

Redding Subcommittee Retreat

June 14, 2025 – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Public Comment

2 minutes per individual

Thanks for attending our community town hall!

Post-town hall feedback survey:

