

City of Wilmington

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December 8, 2015

Dr. Tony Allen, Chairman
Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

We, the members of the City Council of Wilmington - Education, Youth and Families committee would like to thank the members of the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission for its efforts to improve the quality of the education delivered to the students of Wilmington.

Our committee supports WEIC in its mission and understands that accomplishing its goals will lead to improved educational opportunities for our children, schools, communities and city. This body stands in agreement with efforts to reduce the number of school districts servicing the city of Wilmington. As stated in our letter dated March 19, 2015, included in the original WEAC Report: *"In order to establish this two district model the committee believes that it is imperative that city specific dialog and planning occur with Red Clay and Brandywine Schools Districts"*. Although redistricting efforts have moved forward, to date full district collaboration has not occurred. Without full participation from the partnering districts the likelihood for success is drastically diminished.

This committee believes that moving all of the Wilmington children from Christina and Colonial School Districts into the Red Clay District will not only increase their burden but also intensify the number of high poverty schools within the city. An appropriate redistricting solution must be equitable and fair to our children/ families, schools, communities and city.

The members of the Education, Youth and Families committee agree that our state should move to a weighted/ student funding formula. This change would help to assure that our students have the classroom and school based supports needed to promote their growth and development. We hold the position that funding needs to be the priority change that fuels redistricting efforts not vice versa.

As our city continues to develop its role in ensuring that our children are receiving fair and equitable educational opportunities, the city of Wilmington Office of Education and Public Policy and the Wilmington Education Alliance are essential to this committee and our city having an active and contributing leadership role in advancing the educational opportunities for our students.

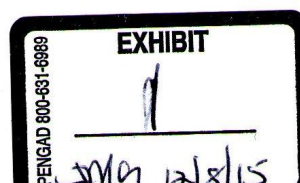
Again, we are in support of the WEIC recommendations but believe that more district collaboration is needed in the redistricting effort, that funding needs to take priority and the Office of Education and Public Policy for our city must be established to develop a plan for city action and leadership for our city's future.

Submitted by: Wilmington City Council- Education, Youth and Families Committee

Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Chair • Dr. Hanifa Shabazz • Sherry Dorsey-Walker
Michael A. Brown, Sr. • Maria Cabrera • Ernest "Trippi" Congo

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