

Redistricting: Interim Plan Overview

The Redding Consortium for Educational Equity (Redding Consortium) is a state body 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. One of the main charges of the Redding Consortium, as required by House Bill 222, is to address redistricting in the City of Wilmington and northern New Castle County.

Per House Bill 229, the Redding Consortium may submit one or more interim plans for action that address redistricting. This interim plan presents a path forward to the State Board of Education (SBE) around boundary shifts, immediate support for our City schools, the timeline and engagement process to develop a final redistricting plan, and ideas to address systemic and systematic change for Wilmington students.

The final redistricting plan must address 13 stipulations as outlined in the Delaware Code and may address additional considerations. The interim plan begins to address some of these stipulations and defines a process for creating a final redistricting plan.

This interim plan suggests:

- **Immediate Support for Wilmington Students in the Christina School District:** The Wilmington Learning Collaborative assumes a greater role in the Christina School District City schools to help serve the educational interests of all students. The WLC involvement can also help smooth future student transitions for the Brandywine and Red Clay School districts. See [page 3](#) for more details.
- **Development of a Two District Approach:** Pursuing a two-district model for the City of Wilmington where Wilmington students are served by the Brandywine School District and the Red Clay Consolidated School Districts and the Christina School District and Colonial School District are removed from the City of Wilmington. See [page 4](#) for more details. See [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) for more context and the history around redistricting in Wilmington.
- **A Process Timeline for Final Plan Development and Stakeholder Engagement:** A proposed timeline to submit a final redistricting plan to the General Assembly for consideration by March 2026. See [page 6](#) for more details.
- **Further Recommendations for Action:** In addition to the 13 stipulations the plan *must* include, the Redding Consortium legislation outlines several topics a redistricting plan *may* include. These “big ideas” enhance the plan to shift district boundaries by providing recommendations for needed systemic change. This includes state investment in impacted schools/districts as well as reforms in revenue, choice and charter school policies, intended to achieve equity for Wilmington students who have been persistently underserved, while also considering positive, transformative change for all students in the receiving districts. See [page 8](#) for more details.

Immediate Support for Wilmington Students in the Christina School District:

Per the Wilmington Learning Collaborative's existing MOU agreement, beginning July 1, the WLC will provide deeper on-the-ground support to city schools. Strengthening educator recruitment, engagement, and retention, reducing chronic absenteeism, and supporting academic growth and achievement, along with a targeted focus on increasing family and community engagement, should be top priorities, with a particular focus on supporting Christina's city schools.

In this way, the Christina School District can work alongside the Red Clay Consolidated and Brandywine School Districts (all members of the WLC) to foster the most effective foundation for the Christina School District's transition away from serving the City of Wilmington.

The Consortium also recommends sufficient resourcing of these activities.

[NOTE TO CONSORTIUM MEMBERS: The Consortium will consider a proposal from the Wilmington Learning Collaborative for endorsement, whether a revision of the next phase of the WLC MOU or other relevant proposals.

This has not been submitted as of 3/28. It is expected shortly.

After Consortium review of such a proposal, anything endorsed will be referenced here and included in the appendix for consideration of the SBE.]

Development of a Two District Approach:

The interim plan suggests that Wilmington students be served by the Red Clay Consolidated and Brandywine School Districts as the sole traditional districts located within the geographic boundaries of the city. The Christina School District and Colonial School District would be removed from the city of Wilmington.

The proposed boundary, school, and student shifts are detailed below.

This proposal is consistent with two-district plans that have been repeatedly recommended for over two decades, because:

- Reduction of governance units removes a significant barrier to consistency and coherence in the provision of educational services for Wilmington's student population.
- Consolidation can make it clearer who is responsible for student outcomes. This can lead to improved transparency and accountability.
- A two-district model would eliminate children being bussed out of the city to their attendance zone schools, a change parents and community leaders have been advocating for 13 years, rooted in issues dating back to 1981.

See [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) for more context and the history around redistricting in Wilmington. See [Appendix 3](#) for maps of current and proposed district boundary changes.

Only For Consortium Member Review as of March 28, 2024

Proposed Changes to Red Clay Consolidated School District

- **Boundaries:** The current Red Clay boundaries in the City of Wilmington would expand to include students residing in the City of Wilmington south and west of the Brandywine Creek (currently portions of Christina and Colonial School Districts).
- **Schools:** Red Clay receives all Christina School District schools in the City of Wilmington: The Bayard School, Maurice Pritchett, Sr. Academy, Stubbs Early Education Center, and Pulaski Early Education Center. Red Clay keeps Lewis Elementary School, Joseph E. Johnson, Jr. Elementary School, Shortlidge Academy, and Warner Elementary School.
- **Students:** These changes would account for an increased tax base of around 4,400 enrolled in Red Clay. Around 1,700 of these students attend their feeder school, the remaining choice outside their current district. Numbers are approximate and subject to change based on district input.

Proposed Changes to Brandywine School District

- **Boundaries:** The current Brandywine boundaries in the City of Wilmington would expand to include students residing north and east of the Brandywine Creek (currently portions of Christina and Colonial School Districts).
- **Schools:** Brandywine would receive no new schools but will keep P.S. duPont Middle School and Harlan Elementary School.
- **Students:** These changes would account for an increased tax base of around 330 students enrolled in the Brandywine School District. Approximately 125 of these students currently attend their feeder school, the remaining choice outside of their current school district. Numbers are approximate and subject to change based on district input.

Proposed Changes to Christina School District

- **Boundaries:** The current Christina School District boundaries in the City of Wilmington will no longer exist.
- **Schools:** The Bayard School, Maurice Pritchett, Sr. Academy, Stubbs Early Education Center, and Pulaski Early Education Center would transfer to the Red Clay Consolidated School District.
- **Students:** Students currently living within the Christina School District Wilmington boundaries will either attend Red Clay Consolidated or Brandywine School Districts consistent with the changes described above. These changes would account for around 4,400 fewer students enrolled in the Christina School District. Numbers are approximate and subject to change based on district input.

Proposed Changes to the Colonial School District

- **Boundaries:** The current Colonial School District boundary that extends into the City of Wilmington will move and start at the borders of the City of Wilmington.
- **Schools:** There are no traditional public schools in the Colonial School District City of Wilmington boundaries.
- **Students:** Students currently living within the Colonial School District City of Wilmington boundaries will attend Brandywine or Red Clay Consolidated School Districts consistent with the changes described above. These changes would account for around 300 fewer students enrolled in the Colonial School District. Numbers are approximate and subject to change based on district input.

A Process Timeline for Final Plan Development and Stakeholder Engagement

This section proposes a path forward for the Redding Consortium to develop its final redistricting plan. This path forward includes meaningful stakeholder engagement and consistent public updates to the State Board of Education on progress for feedback.

Student and personnel shifts would only occur after the final plan is approved, with a transition period between plan approval and shifts beginning. Under current understanding in 2024, shifts will not occur for another 3-5 years, but the appropriate transition and implementation period remains to be determined during the plan’s development and adoption.

March-May 2024: Interim Plan Development

This interim plan is updated to include Consortium member feedback and approved by the Consortium for presentation to the State Board of Education (SBE) for feedback.

June 2024 - Fall 2025, at the latest: Final Redistricting Plan Development

After an interim plan is received by the SBE, the Consortium will

- Conduct frequent regular Consortium meetings dedicated to answering the 13 stipulations and creating a final redistricting plan. See [Appendix 4](#) for the 13 stipulations.
- Pursue rigorous **Stakeholder Engagement** throughout this period to support that planning, such as:
 - **Engagement of impacted groups:** Formal solicitation of input from school boards, DSEA and local affiliates, parents and parent organizations, local elected officials, etc.
 - **SBE Updates:** Redding Consortium leadership will provide periodic updates to the State Board of Education for continuous feedback on the development of the final plan for redistricting.
 - **Public Hearings:** The Redding Consortium and/or the SBE will host public hearings in the impacted school districts prior to the submission of any final plan for redistricting.

October 2025, at the latest: Submit a Final Plan to the SBE

If approved by the Redding Consortium members, a final plan will be submitted to the SBE for approval or denial. The SBE must review the final plan within 90 days.

January 2026, at the latest: Fiscal Impact Analysis

If the plan is approved by the SBE, the Controller General provides financial impacts for the plan. See [Appendix 5](#) for preliminary guidance from the Controller General’s office.

Spring 2026, at the latest: Submit a Final Plan to the General Assembly

If the plan is approved by the SBE, the Redding Consortium will submit the final plan and related Joint Resolution to the General Assembly.

June 2026, at the latest: General Assembly Approves/Denies the Final Plan

If approved, the plan will go to the Governor for signature.

Further Recommendations for Action

In addition to the 13 stipulations the plan must include, the legislation establishing the Redding Consortium outlines several topics a redistricting plan may include as recommendations pertinent to its redistricting plan.

The Redding Consortium's final plan can and should push beyond only shifting district boundary lines to address systemic changes that will advance educational equity.

“Regrettably, the plan will not reduce the concentration of low-income students in any substantive way. This is a result of the segregative impact of the Neighborhood Schools Act, the Choice School Act (that does not provide transportation), and the Charter School Act.

Collectively, these segregation forever plans cry out for relief that can only be obtained with additional resources that reduce class size, provide additional instruction time (before and after school, year-round schools), more qualified teachers, behavior modification services, early childhood education, parent training, community support activities and incentives for teacher retention in city schools.

Funding for these relief items should be recommended and included in the plan.”

- Councilman Jea P. Street

Only For Consortium Member Review as of March 28, 2024

It is our recommendation that our final redistricting plan include more details on the following items:

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.*

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**
 - Broad access to high-quality early education for all students in the district most impacted by the proposed change in district boundaries
 - i.e., implementing a **universal pre-K pilot** in the primary receiving district
- **Premium Pay Policy in highest need schools**
 - i.e., pay premium contingent upon educator commitment to a required length of service at schools meeting the criteria of more than 55% of students being classified low income.
- **Support for the development of specialized programs at Wilmington elementary schools moving to a new receiving school district;**
 - i.e., student assignment to be prioritized for Wilmington students zoned to attend specialty programs with ample opportunity for students throughout the district to choice in.
- **Enhanced Wraparound Services**
 - Recommendations for improvement of the provision and coordination of out-of-school and wellness/behavioral services provided to students and families in the areas impacted by the proposed change in district boundaries.

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.

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