

STRENGTHENING WILMINGTON EDUCATION

**Wilmington Education
Improvement Commission**

Christina School District Board Workshop
August 12, 2015

A Time to Act

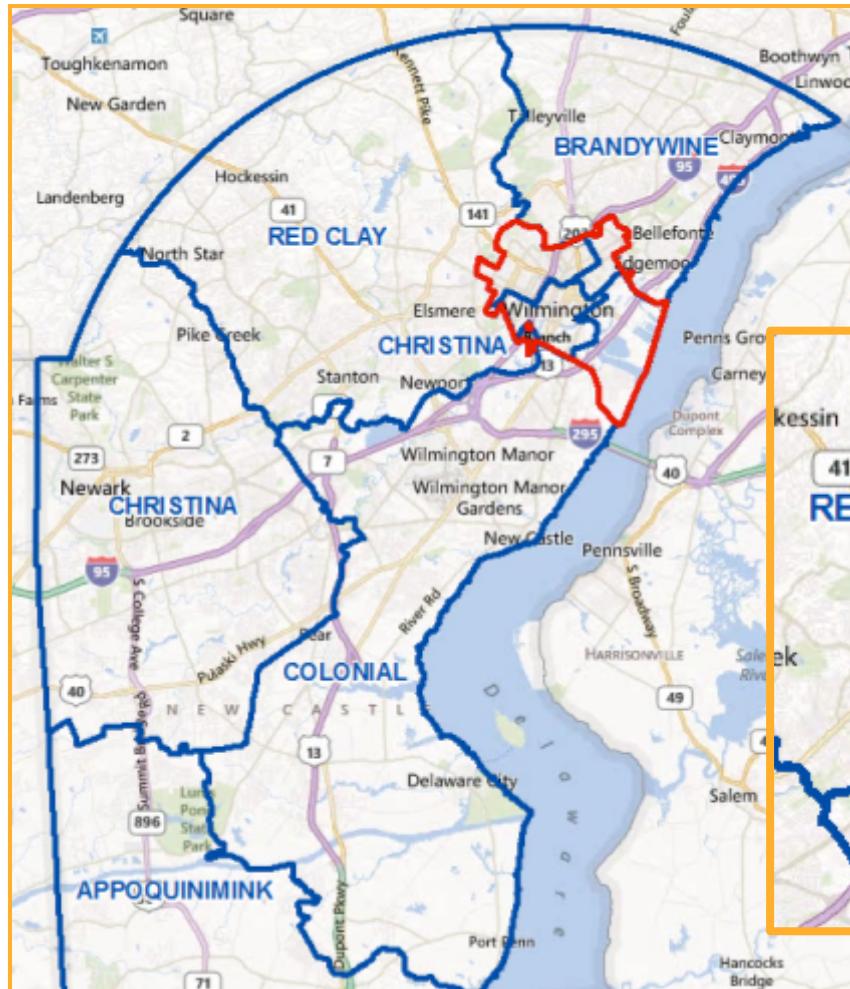
Wilmington Education Historical Timeline

1897	Separate educational system is encoded in 1897 constitution.	1993	State of Delaware requests unitary status for four districts; U.S. District Court assents (1995).
1921	Delaware General Assembly (GA) requires separate but equal schools; 50 separate school districts operate in the state.	1995–1996	Court-ordered federal supervision of desegregation ends; busing continues largely unchanged.
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> ; desegregation ordered, but compliance is limited.	1995	GA formally amends state constitution to abolish separate education system.
1956	<i>Evans v. Buchanan</i> first brought to court; court orders desegregation, but implementation is delayed.	1996	Delaware School Choice Program approved (partly a response to busing).
1957	U.S. District Court requires Delaware to develop a comprehensive desegregation plan.	1996	Delaware GA passes legislation allowing charter schools.
1965	State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts resolution to close smaller schools and phase out the last “black school district.”	1998	Wilmington High School closes as a traditional school and building reopens with a magnet school (Cab Calloway School of the Arts) and a charter school (Charter School of Wilmington).
1968	GA passes Education Advancement Act, consolidates smaller districts (Wilmington excluded), and provides equalization funding.	2000	Neighborhood Schools Act dramatically reduces busing.
1971	Education Advancement Act is challenged in Supreme Court; <i>Evans v. Buchanan</i> reopened.	2001	Report mandated by Neighborhood Schools Act titled “They Matter Most,” is released; recommendations are made with no action.
1974	U.S. District Court decides Wilmington schools are segregated; Education Advancement Act declared unconstitutional.	2006	Coalition of government, education, business, and community leaders establish Vision 2015 and release plan to develop world-class public education for Delaware.
1976	<i>Evans v. Buchanan</i> ; court mandated inter-district busing, upheld through repeated appeals.	2006	Hope Commission Report is produced and a new nonprofit is created; recommendations are made with no action.
1978	“9–3” busing school desegregation plan is implemented.	2008	Wilmington Education Task Force convened by Senator Margaret Rose Henry; recommendations are made with no action.
1980–1981	Delaware GA passes law prompting SBOE to create four districts in New Castle County; court upholds.	2013	Mayor’s Youth, Education and Citizenship Strategic Planning Team established but issued no formal report.
1980–1990s	Sustained pressure to desegregate districts in Delaware, but also gradual loosening of desegregation standards nationally.	2014	Governor Markell creates the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee.

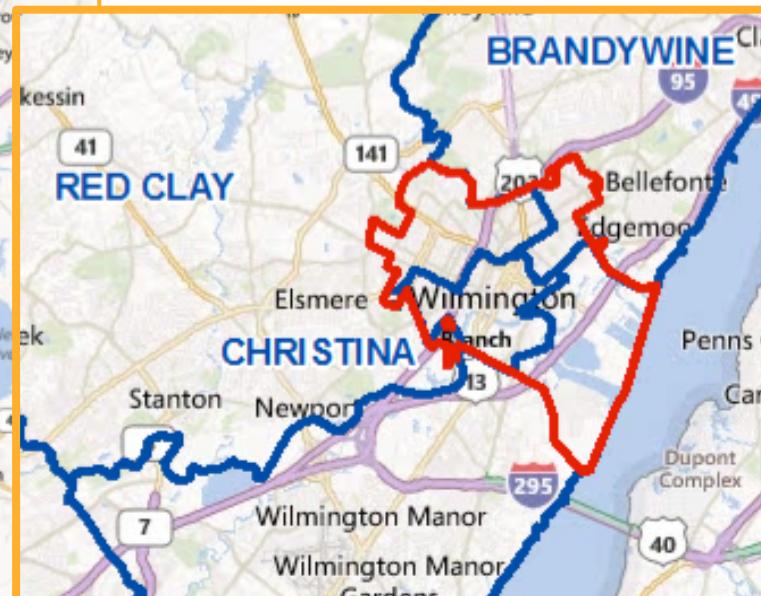
ACTION AGENDA

SET BY WILMINGTON EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WEAC)

The Challenge of Governance



City of Wilmington
District Map



Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2014). GIS Mapping.

The Challenge of Governance

Schools Located within City of Wilmington Limits, Fall 2015

District	Elementary	Middle	High
Brandywine	Harlan Elementary School	P.S. duPont Middle School	N/A
Christina	Bancroft Elementary School Elbert-Palmer Elementary School Pulaski Elementary School Stubbs Elementary School	Bayard Middle School	N/A
Colonial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Red Clay Consolidated	Delaware College Preparatory Academy** Highlands Elementary School Lewis Dual Language Elementary School Shortlidge Academy Warner Elementary School	Cab Calloway School of the Arts*	Cab Calloway School of the Arts* Charter School of Wilmington**
NCC Vo-tech	N/A	N/A	Howard High School of Technology
State-Authorized Charter Schools (Grade Levels Vary)			
Delaware Design Lab High School****		Kuumba Academy	
East Side Charter School			
Edison Charter School		La Academia Antonia Alonso	
First State Montessori Academy		Odyssey Charter School	
Freire Charter School***		Prestige Academy	
Great Oaks Charter School***		The Delaware MET***	

Notes

Independent governing units are bolded.

This table does not include alternative schools located in the city.

Moyer Academic Institute and Reach Academy for Girls are not included, as they are proposed for closure.

*Magnet School

** Charter schools authorized by Red Clay Consolidated School District

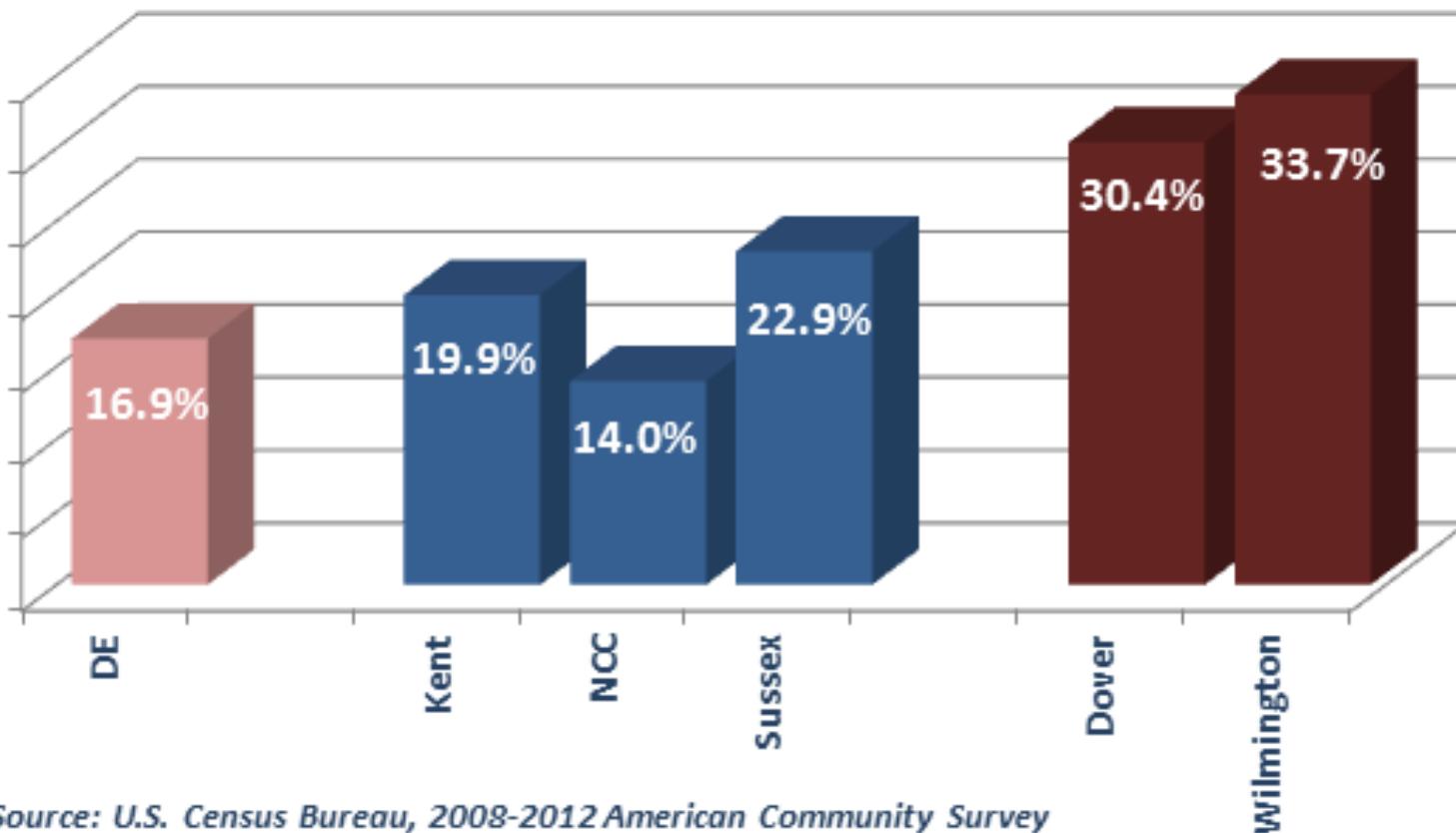
*** New schools approved to open in Fall 2015

**** New schools approved to open in Fall 2015, may change planned location

Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2014). School Profiles.

The Challenge of Poverty

Delaware Child Poverty by County and Place,
Five-Year Average, 2008–2012

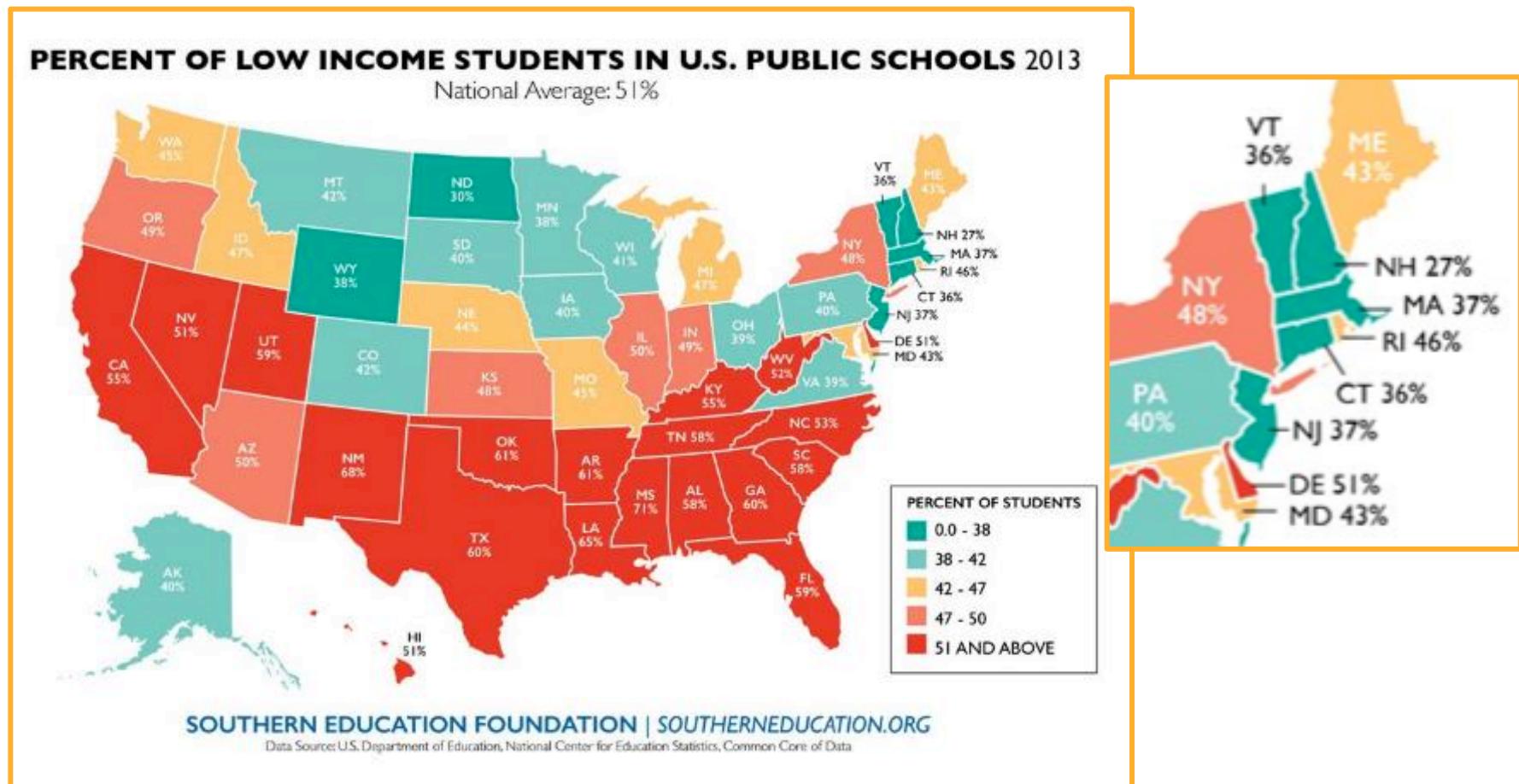


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

Note: The official poverty rate is calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau based on income thresholds and family structure and size.
Source: University of Delaware's Center for Community Research and Service. (2014).

The Challenge of Poverty

51% of students in public schools in Delaware are low income



Note: Low income status is determined by student participation in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch program
Source: Southern Education Foundation calculations of NCES Common Core of Data, 2013. Retrieved from Layton, L. (2015, January 16). *Majority of U.S. public school students are in poverty*. The Washington Post. January 20, 2015.

The Challenge of Resources

- Insufficient revenue base at state and local levels
- Antiquated allocation system
- Inadequate resources for schools with high concentrations of students in poverty and English language learners
- Targeted funding for early childhood and career and college readiness

The Challenge of Implementation

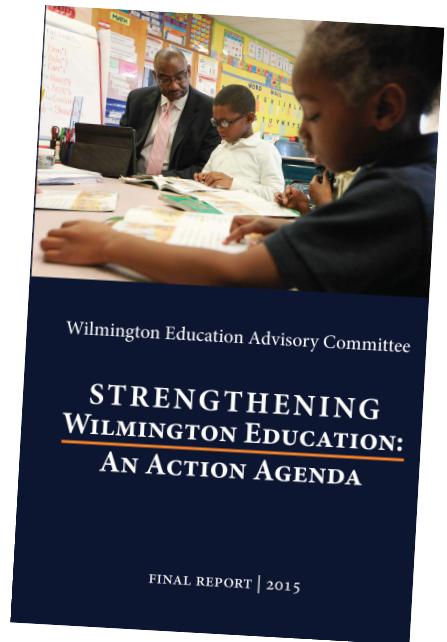
- Despite 40 years of recommendations from earlier commissions, thousands of Wilmington and New Castle County (NCC) children, mostly poor, black and Latino, still do not have access to high quality education.
- The debate about this condition focuses on who is to blame. It is more fractious and confrontational than ever.
- **We need a new pathway to implementation.**

WEAC: Creating An Action Agenda

In April 2015, WEAC issues final report, ***Strengthening Wilmington Education: An Action Agenda.***

Action Agenda

- 1. Create Responsive Governance**
- 2. Meet the Needs of Wilmington Students**
- 3. Fund Student Success**
- 4. Implement Change**



WEAC Legislative Priorities: 2015

• Creating Responsive Governance

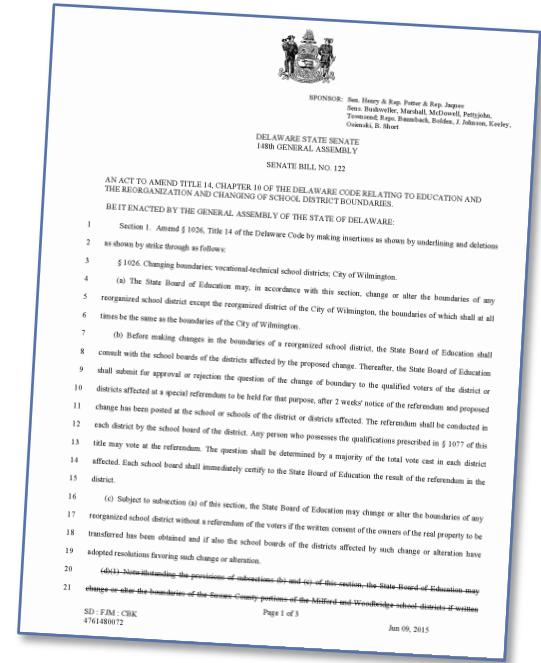
- SB122 (Senator Henry)*
- HB56 (Representative Potter)*

• Meeting Wilmington Student Need & Funding Student Success

- HB30 (Representative Williams)
- HB117 (Representative Heffernan)

• Implementing Change

- HB148 (Representative Keeley)*



**Bills or actions that have passed/been approved*

WILMINGTON EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

On August 4, 2015,
Governor Markell signs
HB148 and SB122.



Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

The Commission will advise the Governor and General Assembly on:

1. Improvements to the quality and availability of education for children in Wilmington and NCC;
2. Meeting the needs of all Delaware schools with high concentrations of children living in poverty and English language learners;
3. Policies to promote the continuous improvement of public education.

Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

- Community-based council
- Works across all governmental units, educational entities, and private and nonprofit institutions
- Supports the implementation of all recommended changes from WEAC's final report
- Submits an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly
- Sunsets on June 30, 2021

Commission Membership

- 23 members from Wilmington and NCC
- Most designated by position
- Also includes parent, educator, student, and community representatives
- Christina will be well-represented on the Commission and its committees

Commission Leadership

- **Appointed by the Governor:**
 - **Tony Allen**, Chairperson; Bank of America
 - **Elizabeth “Tizzy” Lockman**, Vice-Chairperson; Parent and Education Advocate
 - **Kenneth Rivera**, Vice-Chairperson; President, Red Clay School Board, and Brandywine Teacher
- **Supported by:**
 - **Dan Rich**, Policy Director; University of Delaware
 - Staff from the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration

FIVE WEIC COMMITTEES

PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE COMMISSION

1

Redistricting Committee

- Focused on **responsibilities related to SB122**
- The Redistricting Committee will work with districts to prepare the transition, resource, and implementation plan



Charter and District Collaboration Committee

- Support development of a state plan.
- Promote shared capacity and collaboration.
- Recommend application of national best practices.



3

Meeting the Needs of Students in Poverty Committee

- Develop a **comprehensive plan for the integration of services** for low-income children and families, and for schools with high concentrations of poverty.
- Apply a **developmental model** from birth through college and workforce.
- Revitalize the **existing policy infrastructure** to implement the comprehensive plan.



4

Funding Student Success Committee

- Recommend policies to:
 - **Strengthen the revenue base** supporting public education at both the state and local levels, including for property reassessment and tax adjustment.
 - **Adopt a weighted student funding formula** or a modification of the current unit formula that incorporates allocations for school with high concentrations of student in poverty and English language learners and expands basic special education support to grades K-3.



4

Funding Student Success Committee

- Recommend policies to:
 - **Fund the redistricting process** and provide additional assistance to schools in the impacted districts.
 - **Conduct a needs assessment** to evaluate whether the remaining districts in Wilmington require new middle and high schools in the city.
 - **Support the increased investment** needed to sustain and accelerate advances in early childhood learning and in workforce and college access that meet the needs of low-income students.

5

Parent, Educator, and Community Engagement Committee

- Parent and family engagement is critical to the effectiveness of public education. We must establish a strong education partnership between schools and the communities they serve.
- Schools are community assets and must have allies from all sectors to address the complex challenges of educating the children. These allies include engaged families, community and business partners, early childhood educators, mental and physical health providers, institutions of higher education, and social service providers.
- Ongoing, effective, two-way communication with parents, educators, and community residents is essential to the process of educational change.

REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Redistricting Authority

- **Senate Bill 122** authorizes the State Board of Education to alter boundaries of NCC school districts:
 - Consistent with the recommendations made in the WEAC final report, and
 - Based on a transition, resource, and implementation plan prepared by the Commission.

Redistricting Deadlines

December 31, 2015: Deadline for the Commission to submit plan to the State Board.

March 31, 2016: Authority of the State Board to act under the provisions of SB122 terminates.

Redistricting Plan

- The Commission transition, resource, and implementation plan must include:
 - Reassignment of students affected by the boundary change and the reassignment of governance responsibilities
 - Implications for educators, administrators, and other personnel
 - Resources that will be required, from state, district, and local sources
 - Student transportation
 - Distribution of capital assets
 - Engagement of educators, staff, parents, district personnel, and community members throughout the transition

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN
FOR THE CHRISTINA
SCHOOL DISTRICT?**

Recommendations From the WEAC Final Report

1. The Christina and Colonial School Districts should no longer serve Wilmington.
2. The Red Clay Consolidated, Brandywine, and New Castle County Vocational-Technical (NCC Vo-tech) School Districts should continue to serve Wilmington children.
3. Red Clay should take responsibility for all Wilmington schools currently under Christina.

Has the Decision to Change District Boundaries Already Been Made?

- **No.** The State Board can only make the decision, after it reviews the Commission's implementation plan.

Will the Implementation Plan Recommended by the Commission Be Limited to Redrawing Boundaries?

- **No.** Simply redistricting is of no value without a comprehensive plan for school reform.
- The plan will present a comprehensive package and ask the State Board to approve the entire package.

Will Christina No Longer Serve Wilmington Students?

- That recommendation from WEAC is the basis for planning, but no decision has been made.

How Will Christina Be Represented on the Commission?

- Christina Board President Harrie Ellen Minnehan, Christina teacher Karen Eller, and Christina parent and advocate Eve Buckley will serve on the Commission. Eve will co-chair the Charter Committee.
- The Christina Superintendent and another member of the Christina administration as well as Board President Minnehan will serve on the redistricting committee.
- Other committees will include additional Christina representatives: administrators, educators, principals, parents, and community members.

What Will Be Christina's Role in Developing the Plan for Redistricting?

- Christina is being asked to coordinate with the Commission and other districts in developing a transition, resource, and implementation plan for the changes in responsibilities associated with the proposed alteration of district boundaries.

Will the Commission Support Christina With the Transition Plan?

- Yes.** The Commission's role is to support the work of all districts involved in developing their implementation plans, to ensure that the plans of the districts are coordinated and complimentary, and to present the full picture of the redistricting process.

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How Will Christina Communicate With the Parents and Residents?

- Christina will maintain communication with parents, educators, and community members.
- A series of Christina town halls and community meetings should be scheduled collaboratively by the District and the Commission.
- Information should be available on the Christina website, and information also should be shared directly with parents and residents in the Christina newsletter.
- The Commission will support communication efforts via a website (in development) and existing Facebook page.

If Redistricting of the Wilmington Portion of Christina Occurs, How Will That Affect Christina's Remaining District Boundaries?

- The district boundaries outside of Christina's Wilmington portion will not be affected. The Christina School District will retain responsibility for school attendance and feeder patterns in the current, remaining portions of the District, consistent with the same guidelines as now exist.

We look forward to working with you!

Questions?