

**Wilmington Education  
Improvement Commission**  
*Solutions for Delaware Schools*

**July 27, 2016**

Christina School District  
Board of Education  
c/o Elizabeth Campbell Paige

Red Clay Consolidated School District  
Board of Education  
c/o Michael Piccio

**RE: Vote on suspending the redistricting timetable**

**Last night, the Commission voted unanimously to suspend the timetable for redistricting.** That vote was consistent with the resolution the Commission passed in March which stipulated that the timetable would be suspended if the “necessary and sufficient” funding was not provided.

**As expected, the Commission acted quickly and with great resolve. We have always believed that funding must be provided by the state and that there should be no undue burden on Red Clay or Christina tax payers. Last night was another affirmation of our intent. While the timetable for the redistricting plan is suspended until the necessary and sufficient funding is provided, the Commission has a mandate through 2021 and intends to continue its work through that time.**

Please share our decision to suspend the timetable for redistricting with your respective boards and the entire Red Clay and Christina communities. I would further ask that you inform those communities that we continue to believe that a fragmented system that separates 11,500 children into 23 different governing units is inherently unfair and inequitable. Even more egregious is the **STATEWIDE** inequity in funding for schools with high concentrations of children in poverty, English language learners, and basic special education kindergarten through third grade. Both of these challenges must be addressed, and we remain committed to so doing.

**Additionally, I cannot emphasize enough the Commission’s commitment to the other priorities outlined in our mandate and our plans, all of which have equal importance to the more highly publicized redistricting initiatives. As you well know, they include the following:**

- Engaging parents – particularly those from less advantaged communities – to ensure that they can navigate the educational landscape deftly for their children and can become advocates for educational reform;
- Mobilizing capacity from all sectors to support the instructional and non-instructional needs of low-income children throughout our state;
- Supporting enhanced collaboration between and among district and charter schools throughout the state; and
- Continuing to assess the educational performance of City of Wilmington children by charter and district (never done until the Commission stepped in) and building a more inclusive measure of student achievement **STATEWIDE**.

We remain committed to our partnership with you and your executive staff and look forward to continuing this work together. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tony Allen, Ph.D.  
Chairman

**cc:** Members of the Commission  
Dan Rich, Ph.D., Commission Policy Director  
Merv Daugherty, Ed.D. Superintendent, Red Clay Consolidated School District  
Robert Andrzejewski, Ed.D. Superintendent Christina School District  
Ian Connor Bifferato, Esq., Commission General Counsel  
Thomas F. Driscoll III, Esq., Commission General Counsel

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