

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

February 11, 2016

Dr. Gray and members of the Delaware State Board of Education:

The attached addendum to the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission's Redistricting Plan is in response to the letter received on January 31, 2016 listing the State Board's reasons for returning the plan. The addendum provides direct and concise responses to each of the listed reasons. The addendum also includes the following additional documentation:

- A compendium that includes additional details related to those responses;
- An integrated timeline that summarizes action steps, milestones, and funding at each stage of implementation;
- Letters solicited by the Commission from each of the Wilmington school districts specifically responding to issues raised by the State Board;
- Links to additional documentation provided by the Red Clay and Christina School Districts in response to the Commission's request (now posted at the Commission's website, <http://www.solutionsfordelawareschools.com/> and available for State Board review); and,
- Copies of the answers provided by the Commission on December 18, 2015 and January 15, 2016 to earlier questions raised by the State Board.

On February 2, 2016, the Commission met to discuss the issues raised by the State Board and to consider its responses. While all of my fellow Commissioners agreed to respond to these concerns, we also felt compelled to express our own concerns about the process followed by the State Board in its deliberations on the Commission's plan. There have been too many instances in which the State Board and the Commission's representatives have failed to communicate effectively.

We assume our fair share of the responsibility, but we also believe there have been a number of occasions where the State Board failed to take advantage of opportunities for dialogue with the Commission and its spokespersons, which limited your ability to effectively evaluate the Commission's plan and exercise your statutory obligations as defined in Senate Bill 122. We will not elaborate on these concerns at this time. Rather, as Dr. Gray has articulated, the focus of both the Commission and the State Board must be on "embracing this unique opportunity [and taking] action toward that end."

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In that spirit, we are now submitting this addendum to further clarify our approach and address the concerns raised by the State Board in January 31, 2016 letter. This response is in addition to the Commission's plan and the predecessor report, [Strengthening Wilmington Education: An Action Agenda](#), the many hundreds of pages of support documentation provided in the appendices and posted on the Commission's website, the accumulated public record, and the 43 Questions & Answer we have earlier provided in response to issues raised previously by the State Board. In sum, what has been provided is comprehensive, fully responsive, thoroughly documented, replete with milestones for assessment and refinement, and, by any reasonable standard, complete.

We call upon the State Board to approve the submitted plan, recognizing that this is one step in a series of concerted and important actions to be taken through 2021 to improve academic outcomes for City of Wilmington children.

We look forward to the vote on February 18th

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tony Allen', with a long, sweeping tail that curves downwards and to the right.

Tony Allen, Ph.D.
Chairman

cc: Wilmington Education Improvement Commission
Dan Rich, Ph.D., Policy Director
Steven Godowsky, Secretary, Delaware Department of Education
Donna Johnson, Executive Director, State Board of Education