

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

February 1, 2016

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

Thank you for your letter, dated January 31, 2016 outlining the Delaware State Board of Education's reasons for returning our plan. It is my intention to share this letter with the full Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and to discuss it at our meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. We will then prepare a response that addresses your concerns and will submit a summary addendum to our plan, no later than Thursday, February 11, 2016.

The addendum will respond to each of the issues raised in your letter. We will also include our full plan and the 50 questions from the State Board that we have responded to previously as references to our summary document. At that point, I would respectfully request that the State Board vote on our plan at your February 18, 2016 meeting.

As I indicated in my January 21, 2016 communication to all of you, "You [Delaware State Board of Education] have taken great care in exercising due diligence in considering the important and limited power of the State Board of Education to redraw the lines for the first time in 40 years. You have asked hard, thoughtful questions, pressed us on the impact on student achievement that will result from this initial step, affirmed your commitment to Delaware children, and grounded your inquiry and deliberations in fact-finding and evidence."

In that spirit, we continue to believe that all of this has made our plan comprehensive, measurable, and tempered in the very real notion that this is one important step in series of concerted and deliberate actions to be taken through 2021 to improve academic outcomes for City of Wilmington children. However, we are committed to doing more; in fact, we will do whatever it takes to move this plan forward and to begin true Wilmington education reform.

Per your instruction, should we have any clarifying questions in response to your letter, our Policy Director Dr. Dan Rich (drich@udel.edu or [302-831-6835](tel:302-831-6835)) will reach out to Ms. Johnson on the Commission's behalf. Should you or any Board members wish to speak directly to me, I can be reached by email at tonyallen@comcast.net or by phone at [302-290-1445](tel:302-290-1445). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tony Allen, Ph.D., Chairman, Wilmington Education Improvement Commission

Cc: S. Elizabeth Lockman, Vice-chair
Kenneth Rivera, Vice-chair
Dan Rich, Ph.D., Policy Director
Wilmington Education Improvement Commission