

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

Statement on Settlement

As leaders of the Redding Consortium for Educational Equity, we applaud the work of the ACLU of Delaware, Naacp Delaware State Conference, Community Legal Aid Society, Inc., and Delawareans for Educational Opportunity and congratulate them on the settlement announced earlier this week. For years, this coalition of advocates has pushed all three branches of government to more urgently seek solutions for Delaware students, teachers, and schools. Even before Monday's settlement was announced, their work had led, in part, to the governor's Opportunity Funding initiative, new legislative efforts, and the creation of our consortium.

The additional funding laid out in the agreement between the plaintiffs and the state will make a tangible difference in the lives of our most disadvantaged students. Perhaps more importantly, the funding that this agreement envisions can deliver for students right away - a crucial factor for those preparing to graduate into an increasingly uncertain world. That alone is reason to celebrate.

But we also know that there is more work to do. Targeted funding can help fill some of the gaps in our system of education, but the structural inequities that prompted this case will persist until our General Assembly takes bold action to eliminate them.

That is the mission of the Redding Consortium, which defines equitable education not in terms of year-to-year spending, but in the creation of a system that can consistently and sustainably deliver for all students without supplemental intervention or support. Nothing short of a system that provides every resource and opportunity students need to reach their full academic and social potential will, in our opinion, meet the expectations of Delaware's citizens and the needs of its students, educators, and families.

We join those celebrating this week, but also look forward to working purposefully, in a spirit of partnership to sustain this momentum and make progress toward our common goals.

Senator Elizabeth "Tizzy" Lockman, Consortium Co-Chair

Representative Nnamdi Chukwuocha, Co-Chair, Consortium Funding & Governance Working Group

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