

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

JANUARY 25, 2021

SETTLEMENT WORK GROUP

Welcome & Roll Call



Roll Call— **Work group members—please type your name in the Chat**



Please mute yourself when not talking



Use the chat function to ask questions



Please note this meeting is being recorded and may be posted for the public

Introductions

- Name
- Affiliation
- One thing you hope to contribute to this group?

Work Group Scope

In response to the Delaware education funding lawsuit settlement, the Settlement Work Group intends to:

- Be the watchdog for how the state and General Assembly implement the actions outlined in the settlement
- Ensure that the Consortium is responding appropriately to the settlement implementation
- Be the subject matter expert on the settlement for the Redding Consortium
- Create recommendations for the General Assembly to proceed/implement the actions outlined in the settlement

Work Group Goals

- Offer guidance or influence when the General Assembly must make decisions related to the settlement
- Challenge the state and General Assembly to use the settlement as a floor, and push for further change
- Connect the settlement to systemic and equitable change

Previous Attempts to Address Funding Inequities

2006 Vision 2015 Begins to promote establishing a fair and simple funding system

2011 Delaware receives \$100 million in Race to the Top Money

2013 Wilmington Education Strategic Think Tank (WESTT): commissions an edunomics study

2014 Markell Commissions WEAC which pushes education funding reform

2015 SJR 4 Commissions Education Funding Improvement Commission to review and make recommendations to modernize and improved Delaware's system for funding public education

Previous Attempts to Address Funding Inequities

2016 WEAC turns to WEIC to help implement recommendations

2016 Education Equity Delaware is founded under Rodel Foundation to look at inequitable funding of public education

2018 ACLU Education Funding Lawsuit on inequitable funding of public education

2019 Governor Carney announces Opportunity Grants

2019 Vision Coalition commissions a study with Ed Trust to get perceptions on what should be done with Delaware's funding system

Settlement in State Education Equity Lawsuit—Key Points

Opportunity Funding will grow from \$25 million per year to \$60 million by SY 2024-25

- After 2024-25 SY, the amount grows in accordance with the enrollment at schools serving English language learners and low-income students
- \$5 million of these funds will be reserved for mental health and reading supports in schools with the highest concentrations of low income and English learner students

K-3 Special Education

- Funding dedicated to basic special education students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to equal funding currently in place for basic special education students in grades 4-12 by the 2023-2024 school year.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- A \$4 million annual commitment to support enhanced teacher recruitment and retention in high-needs schools beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

Early Education

- By the 2023-2024 school year, the Early Childhood Assistance Program, which funds preschool programs for low-income families, will double its funding from \$6.1 million to \$12.2 million.

Settlement in State Education Equity Lawsuit—Key Points

Ombudsperson

- An ombudsperson program will be adopted to assist individual students and families in resolving disputes or complaints concerning disparate discipline, inequitable access to school programs, and different or unfair treatment.

Capital Projects

- School districts seeking voter approval for capital construction and major renovations will be required to distribute an equity statement to explain how the capital project would impact equitable distributions of new and renovated buildings within the district.

Independent Assessment

- The State will hire an independent organization to complete a holistic assessment of the Delaware public school finance system by January 2024, which shall consider funding levels, revenue mechanisms, equity, and efficiency.

Delaware Lawsuit Settlement: Minimum Actions Needed for Compliance

	Current Fiscal Year 2021 (School Year 2020-21)	Fiscal Year 2022 (School Yr 2021-22)	Fiscal Year 2023 (School Yr 2022-23)	Fiscal Year 2024 (School Yr 2023-24)	Fiscal Year 2025 (School Yr 2024-25)	Future Years
Opportunity Funding	\$75M over 3 years	Increase to not less than \$35 million and shall provide \$5M of this for mental health or reading supports to schools with high concentrations of low-income and English Learners students. Legislation to make permanent & require LEAs to provide annual report in FY 23	Funding not less than \$35 million and shall provide \$5M of this for mental health and reading supports.	Funding not less than \$50 million and shall provide \$5M of this for mental health and reading supports.	Funding not less than \$60 M and shall provide \$5M of this for mental health and reading supports.	Grows in accordance with Low Income and English Learner student growth
K-3 Basic Special Education	None			Propose legislation via budget epilogue to change funding structure to be the same as the funding structure for basic special education students in grades 4-12		

Delaware Lawsuit Settlement: Minimum Actions Needed for Compliance

	Current Fiscal Year 2021 (School Year 2020-21)	Fiscal Year 2022 (School Yr 2021-22)	Fiscal Year 2023 (School Yr 2022-23)	Fiscal Year 2024 (School Yr 2023-24)	Fiscal Year 2025 (School Yr 2024-25)	Future Years
Early Education: Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP)	\$6.1 million			ECAP double to \$12.2 million	Keep at \$12.2 million	
Teacher Recruitment and Retention	Loan Forgiveness and Scholarships/Grants		\$4 million commitment in addition to FY21 allocations	\$4 million commitment in addition to FY21 allocations	\$4 million commitment in addition to FY21 allocations	
Ombudsperson	None in place	Create and fund one in each county				
Equity Statement for Capital Projects	Not in place	No date specified				
Independent Funding Assessment		Include sufficient funding	Include sufficient funding	Complete by January 2024		

Opportunity Funding

Opportunity Funding will grow from \$25 million per year to \$60 million SY 2024-25

- After 2024-25 SY, the amount grows in accordance with the enrollment at schools serving English language learners and low-income students
- \$5 million of these funds will be reserved for mental health and reading supports in schools with the highest concentrations of low income and English learner students

The Governor will propose a budget to the General Assembly:

- Fiscal Year 2022 that includes an appropriation of not less than \$35 million for Opportunity Funding for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- Fiscal Year 2023 that includes an appropriation of not less than \$35 million in Opportunity Funding for the 2022-2023 School Year.
- Fiscal Year 2024 that includes an appropriation of not less than \$50 million in Opportunity Funding for the 2023-2024 School Year.
- Fiscal Year 2025 that includes an appropriation of not less than \$60 million in Opportunity Funding for the 2024-2025 School Year.

Opportunity Funding--Legislation

- Effective beginning in the Fiscal Year 2023
- Amend Delaware Code to make Opportunity Funding permanent by providing it shall be an appropriation appropriated pursuant to that new statutory section and indexed after Fiscal Year 2025 to grow with the increasing enrollment of Low Income students and English Learner students.
- The Fiscal Year 2025 per pupil allotment shall be calculated as follows:
 - \$55 million divided by the sum of Low Income student enrollment and English learner enrollment.
 - In each subsequent year, the total Opportunity Funds shall be equal to at least the Fiscal Year 2025 per pupil amount multiplied by the sum of each subsequent years Low Income student enrollment and English Learner enrollment, plus at least \$5 million for mental health and reading supports to schools as specified in Subparagraph 3.A.vii below.
 - The proposed legislation shall provide that Opportunity Funding shall be used to enhance services and provide additional supports to English Learner and Low Income students.
- Requires LEAs to provide an annual report on how they use the funds

K-3 Special Education Funding

By School Year 2023-24:

- Funding dedicated to basic special education students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to equal funding currently in place for basic special education students in grades 4-12

Teacher Recruitment and Retention

Fiscal Years 2023, 2024, 2025:

- At least \$4 million annual commitment to support enhanced teacher recruitment and retention in high-needs schools
- In addition to the FY 21 appropriations

Early Education

Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025:

- Appropriations not less than \$12.2 million annually
- At least 50% of the additional ECE seats made possible above the current funding allocated to non-LEA community bases ECE programs

Ombudsperson

Effective FY 2022:

- One per county
- Assist individual students and families in resolving disputes or complaints concerning disparate discipline, inequitable access to school programs, and different or unfair treatment
- Non-lawyer advocates for students and their families
- Bid out to an independent non state organization in accordance with the State's bidding laws and regulations.
- The successful bidder may, if it determines it to be appropriate and desirable, seek pro bono or subcontract for legal services. The Parties or their designees will meet and confer concerning the specific elements and allocation of funds for this program.

Capital Projects

- The Department of Education will amend 14 Delaware Administrative Code, Regulation 401
- School districts seeking voter approval for capital construction and major renovations will be required to distribute an equity statement to explain how the capital project would impact equitable distributions of new and renovated buildings within the district.
- The Equity Statement shall identify demographic information (race, Low Income, English Learner) of the students who are expected to attend a new school, use a new facility, or benefit from a major renovation and state how the capital project impacts equitable distributions of new and renovated buildings throughout the school district.

Independent Assessment

Complete by January 2024:

- The Governor will include sufficient funding in his proposed budgets for a holistic assessment of the Delaware public school system financing to be completed by January 2024.
- The assessment shall consider total funding levels, the mechanisms for raising and distributing education revenue at the state and local level, and make recommendations for improvements to equity and efficiency.
- The legislation proposed by the Governor shall provide that:
 - the assessment shall be done by an organization that is independent of the State, following State bidding laws and regulations; and
 - the assessment shall be provided to the Governor, the Secretary of Education, Speaker of the House, Senate Pro Tempore and the House and Senate Education Committees.
- The assessment shall not obligate the State to take any action and is limited to providing information concerning potential modifications and improvements to the financing of Delaware's public school system.

Approved Consortium Recs & Settlement Alignment

	Educator Work Group Recommendations	Social Determinants Work Group	Governance and Funding Work Group
Opportunity Funding			
K-3 Special Education		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended K-3 Special Education funding for FY22 	
Early Education		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed enhanced ECAP funding 	
Teacher Recruitment and Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grow Our Own Program Whole School Professional Learning 		
Ombudsperson			
Capital Projects			
Independent Assessment			

Next Steps

- Work Group Members will receive a follow-up survey
- The end goal is to develop proposals
- Remember we are doing this is for the kids

Future Meetings & Contact Info

Future Meetings:

- Feb 8, 2021
- March 1, 2021
- March 22, 2021
- April 12, 2021
- May 3, 2021

Contact Information:

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Consortium website: <https://www.solutionsfordelawareschools.com/>

Consortium Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ReddingConsortium>

Consortium YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi1pEH8Uq0SG6chLY-KpCjA?view_as=subscriber

Public Comment

3-minutes per comment