

Settlement Work Group Meeting

May 3, 2021

Redding Consortium for Educational Equity

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

Approval of Minutes

Meeting Goals

- Legislative Update
- Update from Consortium meeting
- Discuss path forward

Legislation Introduced- Status Update

| Bill | Status |
|--|--|
| Senate Bill 56: Opportunity Funding | Passed Senate 20-0-1; Released from House Education Committee |
| House Bill 86: K-3 Basic Special Education Unit | Passed House Education; Assigned to House Appropriations Committee |
| House Bill 100: Mental Health Services Unit for Elementary Schools | Passed House Education; Assigned to House Appropriations Committee House Amendment Introduced |

Consortium Meeting Update

Equity Statement Regulation

Department of Education revises Major Capital Improvement Program to require Equity Statements

“Local school district submissions for a Certificate of Necessity shall provide an equity statement that identifies the demographic information (e.g. race, Low Income, English Learner) of the students who are expected to attend the new school, use a new facility, or benefit from an approved Major Capital Project and how the Major Capital Project impacts equitable distributions of new and renovated buildings throughout the school district.”

Equity Statement Recommendations

The Equity Statement regulation as written meets the minimum requirements of the settlement.

The Settlement Work Group recommends that the Consortium endorse the following additions to the Equity Statement regulation:

1. That the Bond Bill Committee adds epilogue language to ensure that 14 Del. Admin Code 401 requires the Department of Education to post publicly on the Department website all Certificate of Necessity applications received, the equity statements associated with those applications, and a summary of all Certificate of Necessity applications approved by the Department.
2. The Department shall include specific guidance on how Certificate of Necessity equity statements must include references to the Districts' overall equity efforts or if available, formal plans. The Department shall also establish in the regulation minimum elements required in the equity statement to ensure that the statement is meaningful and establish a process for internal review of the statement outside of the DOE finance department.
3. That each district shall be required to create a baseline assessment of their district buildings and Certificate of Necessity Equity Statements must include how improvements are connected to the overall plan.
4. Equity Statement must be part of board approval for the Certificate of Necessity.

Ombudsperson

Effective FY 2022:

- One program 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.

Ombudsperson Update

The Settlement Work Group discussed:

1. The drafted framework for the Ombudsperson program
2. The drafted Request for Proposal (RFP)
3. That a member of the Redding Consortium be on the RFP Committee for the Ombudsperson Program

Reflection on Settlement

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 | | |

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|---|--|---|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 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 group 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 | | |

Path Forward Discussion

Breakout Rooms

Breakout Rooms:

- 1) Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- 2) Independent Funding Assessment
- 3) Opportunity Funding

Questions

- What information do we need?
- Strategy for ensuring we are heard and making sure we hear from the right people?

Next Steps

Future Meetings & Contact Info

Future Meetings:

- May 24, 2021
- June 14, 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