

# Settlement Work Group Meeting

---

October 25, 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

# Welcome

---

# Meeting Minutes

---

# Meeting Goals

---

- Delaware education update
- Work Group focus areas & monitoring plan
- Ombudsperson update
- Discuss independent funding assessment RFP - 35 minutes
- Discuss ideal Delaware funding system - 15 minutes
- Public comment

# Delaware Education Update

---

- Susan Bunting, Delaware Secretary of Education, will be leaving DDOE in December 2021
- Mark Holodick was nominated to be the next Delaware Secretary of Education
  - He is currently a Senior Leadership Specialist at DASL, UD;
  - Former Superintendent of Brandywine School District
  - His position must be confirmed by the Delaware Senate

# Focus Areas & Monitoring Plans 2021-22

Settlement Item	Work Group Action Item
Independent Funding Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Work Group focus area for 2021</b></li> <li>● <b>Related to overall DE funding system conversation</b></li> </ul>
Opportunity Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor to ensure funding not less than \$35 million and shall provide \$5M of this for mental health and reading supports</li> </ul>
Teacher Recruitment and Retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor to ensure \$4 million commitment in addition to FY21 allocations</li> </ul>
Ombudsperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor RFP that was re-released - closed on October 12</li> </ul>
Equity Statement for Capital Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitor content of equity statements when districts/schools submit them</li> </ul>
Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Long-term monitoring focused on outcomes/impacts</li> </ul>
K-3 Basic Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Long-term monitoring focused on outcomes/impacts</li> </ul>

# Ombudsperson Update

---

Shannon Griffin, Senior Policy Advocate, ACLU of Delaware

# Independent Funding Assessment - September Conversation Recap

---

- How do we define independent?
  - Should it be an organization outside of Delaware?
- Advocate for continuously updated funding report (like Maryland, every 2-3 years)
  - This approach lets us make incremental changes as opposed to needing a lawsuit
- Report should focus 75% on Delaware-specific info
- Is there a timeframe for the funding assessment? How is the time defined?
  - Span could be based on the last time we updated/evaluated the system/adopted unit funding formula
  - Data won't be as detailed if we go back further than 8-10 years
  - Data quality needs to be part of the discussion
  - Must address funding increases from 2021-2025
- The assessment is boiler plate instructions on where we are now
  - a companion bill charges a group to review assessment and make further recommendations
- Important part is what is done with assessment and who makes the changes
- DEFAC model? Independent agency
- Maryland legislation model – Kerwin Commission
- Delaware needs an adequacy study

# Independent Funding Assessment Timeline

---

- **October 25-28:** Work Group finalizes input on draft RFP
- **November 1-2:** Work Group Co-chairs send draft RFP to Redding Consortium members for review
- **November 4:** Full Body Consortium Meeting - Redding Consortium members vote to approve/reject sending RFP to DDOE
- **If approved:** Senator Lockman and Matt Denn send RFP to DDOE

# Discussion - Independent Funding Assessment Draft RFP

---

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.

## Questions the assessment could answer:

- What are the disparities in state and local revenues based on the level of district poverty?
- What disparities exist in school level per-pupil spending?
- How does the amount of state funding given to Delaware's highest and lowest poverty schools compare?
- What is the amount of revenue per pupil currently being raised by each district from each form of school tax?
- What is the average per pupil amount of regular education unit funding, statewide and for each individual district?
- What is the average value of a Division I unit and other positional units prescribed by code statewide and for each individual district?
- What is the average per- pupil amount and percentage of additional funding for low-income, English learner, special education, and CTE students?
- Compare to specific other states.
- What is the estimated value of the millage rate in each district?
- Describe the existing flexibility for district and or school-level decision-making in spending for each unit division and other state resources.
- Should the funding system be continuously assessed moving forward? Every 2-3 years? Every 5 years? What are best practices?

# Discussion - Draft Rubric for Potential Bidders

---

<b>Proposal Details</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Applicants must demonstrate experience and expertise in areas outlined in the scope of work as outlined in the RFP. Strong applicants will provide evidence of knowledge of the Delaware Education System and others.	20
Explanation of design process, capabilities, and ??	20
References	10
Project Cost Proposal	20
What else? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maybe something about a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in the bidders work and that equity will be the lens they view the assessment through?</li></ul>	Need 30 more

# Discussion - Delaware Funding System

---

What would the ideal education system look like in Delaware?

Specifically, how would it function and what are the main components for success?

Ideas:

- All schools have high quality and diverse educators with low turnover rates
- All Delaware students are proficient in English and math
- Students receive resources based on their individual needs and circumstances

# Next Steps

---

Development of a rubric that tracks how DDOE and other entities are complying with the settlement and meeting the needs of students

The rubric focuses on **Status, Outcomes, and Impact**

Homework:

- Review the rubric and help determine how we should measure implementation, outcomes, and impact of settlement

# Public Comment

---

3-minutes per comment

# Future Meetings & Contact Info

---

- Monday, November 22
- December 14 or 15?
- January 24?

Contact Information:

Kelly Sherretz, [kscollon@udel.edu](mailto:kscollon@udel.edu)

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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi1pEH8Uq0SG6chLY-KpCjA?view_as=subscriber)

# Delaware Lawsuit Settlement: Minimum Actions Needed for Compliance

	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
<b>Opportunity Funding</b>	\$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
<b>K-3 Basic Special Education</b>	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

	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
<b>Early Education: Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP)</b>	\$6.1 million			ECAP double to \$12.2 million	Keep at \$12.2 million	
<b>Teacher Recruitment and Retention</b>	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	
<b>Ombudsperson</b>	None in place	Create and fund one group in each county				
<b>Equity Statement for Capital Projects</b>	Not in place	No date specified				
<b>Independent Funding Assessment</b>		Include sufficient funding	Include sufficient funding	Complete by January 2024		