

**JEA P. STREET
COUNCILMAN, TENTH DISTRICT**



LOUIS L. REDDING CITY COUNTY BUILDING
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COUNCIL

April 2, 2009

Dear Friends and Citizens

I have developed the attached reports from the Delaware Department of Education's School Profiles. The reports clearly show that at least 28 High Poverty, racially identifiable schools have been established in New Castle County since Federal Court Supervision was lifted in 1996. I regret to inform you that Suspensions are at an all time high (over 25,000) in 2007/2008 and the test scores of children of color are at the 10th grade level in all four school district's are disastrous. The reports also show an obvious under representation of minority teachers and administrators within all four Districts.

Over the last eight years recommendations have been made to State officials to address the needs of children in High Poverty Schools. These recommendations were made by the Wilmington Neighborhood School Committee, in January 2001, the City of Wilmington on March 15, 2001 and the Wilmington Education Task Force in April 2008. To date, no action has been taken. Therefore, I am recommending implementation of the attached 16 suggestions which I have termed the "STREET SIXTEEN".

I urge you to contact State and School officials to urge implementation of the "STREET SIXTEEN!" Most of these items were previously recommended in the aforementioned reports.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!

Please urge support of the "STREET SIXTEEN!"

Very Truly Yours,

Jea P. Street, Councilmen
New Castle County Council
District Ten

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COUNCIL

April 4, 2009

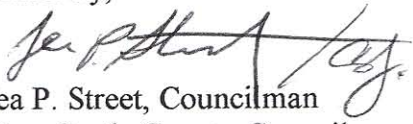
Honorable Matthew P. Denn
Lieutenant Governor
State of Delaware
820 N. French St.
Wilmington, DE 19081
And
Dr. Lillian Lowery, Secretary of Education
Department of education
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Lieutenant Governor Denn and Secretary Lowery,

I have attached for your information a revised version of the "STREET SIXTEEN". Please consider the revised version as a substitute for what was presented to you on April 2, 2009.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jea P. Street, Councilman
New Castle County Council
District Ten

P.c. All Attendee's of the April 2, 2009 Meeting
Wilmington City Council Members
New Castle County Council Members

“STREET SIXTEEN”

- *1. Expansion of Early Childhood Education Services for Low Income Children
2. All Day kindergarten within Elementary Schools
3. Math Specialists
4. Reading Specialists
5. Reduced Class Sizes
- *6. Health and Wellness Services to include Mental Health Services within the schools
7. Social workers within the schools
8. Opportunity for extended school days and weeks
9. Opportunity for extended school year
10. Teacher Compensation Incentives
11. Parent Resource Centers
12. Parent Training
13. Parent Decision Making
14. State of the Art Technology and access to technology for all Low Income students
15. External independent oversight for monitoring and evaluation of Low Income Schools
- *16. Make intentional efforts to reduce suspensions and expulsions
 - a) Develop behavior modification programs for students suspended two or more times
 - b) Institute behavioral interventionist positions or a formula commensurate with the student body within all elementary, middle and high schools

REVISED April 3, 2009

Suggested Legislation:

1. Implement the Universal Components as set forth in the Wilmington Neighborhood School Committee Report in January 2001.
2. Implement the weighted funding formula as set forth in the April 2008 Report from the Wilmington Education Task Force
3. Implement the Feeder Pattern changes for Wilmington Children as set forth in the January 2001 Wilmington Neighborhood School committee Report, the March 15, 2001 recommendations from the City of Wilmington and the April 8, 2008 recommendations of the Wilmington Education Task Force
4. Establish a specific weighted funding formula for the existing 28 predominately Low Income Schools in New Castle County and for the additional New Castle County schools that may have been created this year. I specifically request that you consider providing funding for Low Income Schools that include.

1. Early childhood Education within Elementary Schools
2. All Day kindergarten within Elementary Schools
3. Math Specialists
4. Reading Specialists
5. Reduced Class Sizes
6. Mental Health Services within the schools
7. Social workers within the schools
8. Opportunity for extended school days and weeks
9. Opportunity for extended school year
10. Teacher Compensation Incentives
11. Parent Resource Centers
12. Parent Training
13. Parent Decision Making
14. State of the Art Technology and access to technology for all Low Income students
15. External independent oversight for monitoring and evaluation of Low Income Schools
16. Make intentional efforts to reduce suspensions and expulsions
 - a) Develop behavior modification programs for students suspended two or more times

Immediately;**Change the Feeder Patterns for City Students in the Colonial School District:**

The Northeast portion of the City of Wilmington should be taken out of the Colonial School District. Students in this area were originally assigned to the Brandywine School District in 1978. In 1981 when the four districts were established these students were

transferred to Colonial. Colonial began to receive funding equalization for these students from the other District's in 1981 and this continues today. At this point, it is an undue burden for the students as they spend 13 years outside the City of Wilmington in High Poverty elementary and middle schools created post unitary status. The fact is these students ride past Stubbs, Bancroft and Palmer to attend predominately low income schools in the County. **I believe this is an egregious violation of the "Neighborhood Schools Act"** and it is not consistent with the recommendations of the Neighborhood School Committee in January 2001, the recommendations of the City of Wilmington, on March 15, 2001 or the recommendations of the Wilmington Education Task Force in April 2008.