

STRENGTHENING WILMINGTON EDUCATION

Wilmington Education Advisory Committee

Wilmington Education Advisory Committee

Members

Chairman

- Tony Allen, Ph.D.

Educators

- Norma Ivonne Antongiorgi*
- Henry Harper, Ph.D.*
- Susan Hessling
- Karen Eller
- Rosemary Banks
- Cheryl Trawick*
- Meghan Wallace*

Parents

- Adriana Bohm, Ph.D.
- Melissa Browne
- Shefon Taylor
- Elizabeth Lockman
- Chandra Pitts

*Former/retired

Community Leaders

- The Honorable James Baker
- Nikki Castle, Ph.D.
- The Honorable Nnamdi Chukwuocha
- The Reverend Meredith Griffin, D.Min.
- Marco Ramos
- Richard "Mouse" Smith

Counselor

- Dan Rich, Ph.D., University of Delaware (UD)

UD Institute for Public Administration Analysts

- Elizabeth Burland
- Neil Kirschling
- Lisa Moreland
- Sarah Pragg
- Kelly Sherretz

Our Mandate

Strengthen Public Education
for all Wilmington Students

A Time to Act

Wilmington Education Historical Timeline

1897	Separate educational system is encoded in 1897 constitution.	1993	State of Delaware requests unitary status for four districts; U.S. District Court assents (1995).
1921	Delaware General Assembly (GA) requires separate but equal schools; 50 separate school districts operate in the state.	1995–1996	Court-ordered federal supervision of desegregation ends; busing continues largely unchanged.
1954	<i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> ; desegregation ordered, but compliance is limited.	1995	GA formally amends state constitution to abolish separate education system.
1956	<i>Evans v. Buchanan</i> first brought to court; court orders desegregation, but implementation is delayed.	1996	Delaware School Choice Program approved (partly a response to busing).
1957	U.S. District Court requires Delaware to develop a comprehensive desegregation plan.	1996	Delaware GA passes legislation allowing charter schools.
1965	State Board of Education (SBOE) adopts resolution to close smaller schools and phase out the last “black school district.”	1998	Wilmington High School closes as a traditional school and building reopens with a magnet school (Cab Calloway School of the Arts) and a charter school (Charter School of Wilmington).
1968	GA passes Education Advancement Act, consolidates smaller districts (Wilmington excluded), and provides equalization funding.	2000	Neighborhood Schools Act dramatically reduces busing.
1971	Education Advancement Act is challenged in Supreme Court; <i>Evans v. Buchanan</i> reopened.	2001	Report mandated by Neighborhood Schools Act titled “They Matter Most,” is released; recommendations are made with no action.
1974	U.S. District Court decides Wilmington schools are segregated; Education Advancement Act declared unconstitutional.	2006	Coalition of government, education, business, and community leaders establish Vision 2015 and release plan to develop world-class public education for Delaware.
1976	<i>Evans v. Buchanan</i> ; court mandated inter-district busing, upheld through repeated appeals.	2006	Hope Commission Report is produced and a new nonprofit is created; recommendations are made with no action.
1978	“9–3” busing school desegregation plan is implemented.	2008	Wilmington Education Task Force convened by Senator Margaret Rose Henry; recommendations are made with no action.
1980–1981	Delaware GA passes law prompting SBOE to create four districts in New Castle County; court upholds.	2013	Mayor’s Youth, Education and Citizenship Strategic Planning Team established but issued no formal report.
1980–1990s	Sustained pressure to desegregate districts in Delaware, but also gradual loosening of desegregation standards nationally.	2014	Governor Markell creates the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee.

A Time to Act

Despite 40 years of reforms and despite the recommendations of earlier commissions, thousands of Wilmington children, mostly poor, black and Latino, still do not have access to high quality education.

A Time to Act

- Our deliberations have been framed by the long history of Wilmington education.
- Earlier commissions
 - The Wilmington Neighborhood Schools Committee, 2001
 - The Wilmington Hope Commission, 2006
 - The Wilmington Education Task Force, 2008
 - The Mayor's Youth, Education and Citizenship Strategic Planning Team, 2013
- Public education is more fractious and confrontational than ever.
 - Priority Schools
 - ACLU complaint to the US Office of Civil Rights
 - Mayor Williams suit against State to keep Moyer Academic Institute
 - Reach Academy for Girls suit against the State

A Time to Act

- We believe that the responsibility for current conditions lies with the whole community and the solutions must come from the whole community.
- The longer we fail to act, the more costly and difficult it will become.
- We must take a long-term, solutions-oriented approach and **we must start now!**

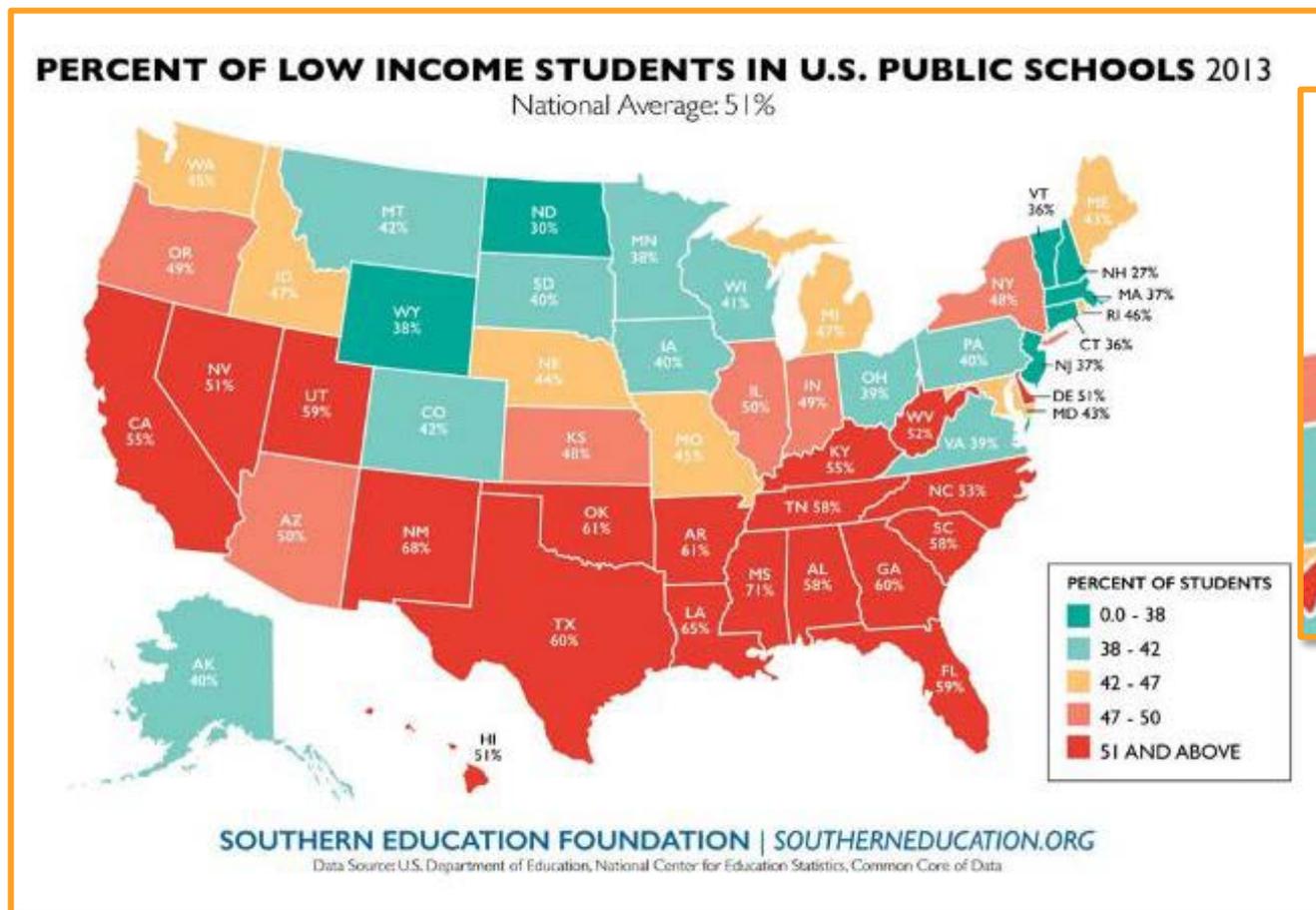
Strengthen Public Education for all Wilmington Students

Guiding Principles

- The effectiveness of Wilmington public education is critical to our entire state.
- All Wilmington schools should set and meet high standards for student learning.
- Wilmington students should continue to be served by a combination of district, charter, and vo-tech schools.
- All Wilmington schools should receive the human and financial resources needed to support student success.
- Policies and practices for Wilmington schools should promote collaboration, shared learning, and a mutual commitment to improvements that serve all students.
- Wilmington schools should be supported as community assets, governed in some way by the community they serve.
- Wilmington schools should have allies to address the complex challenges of educating the city's children.

More Than a Wilmington Problem

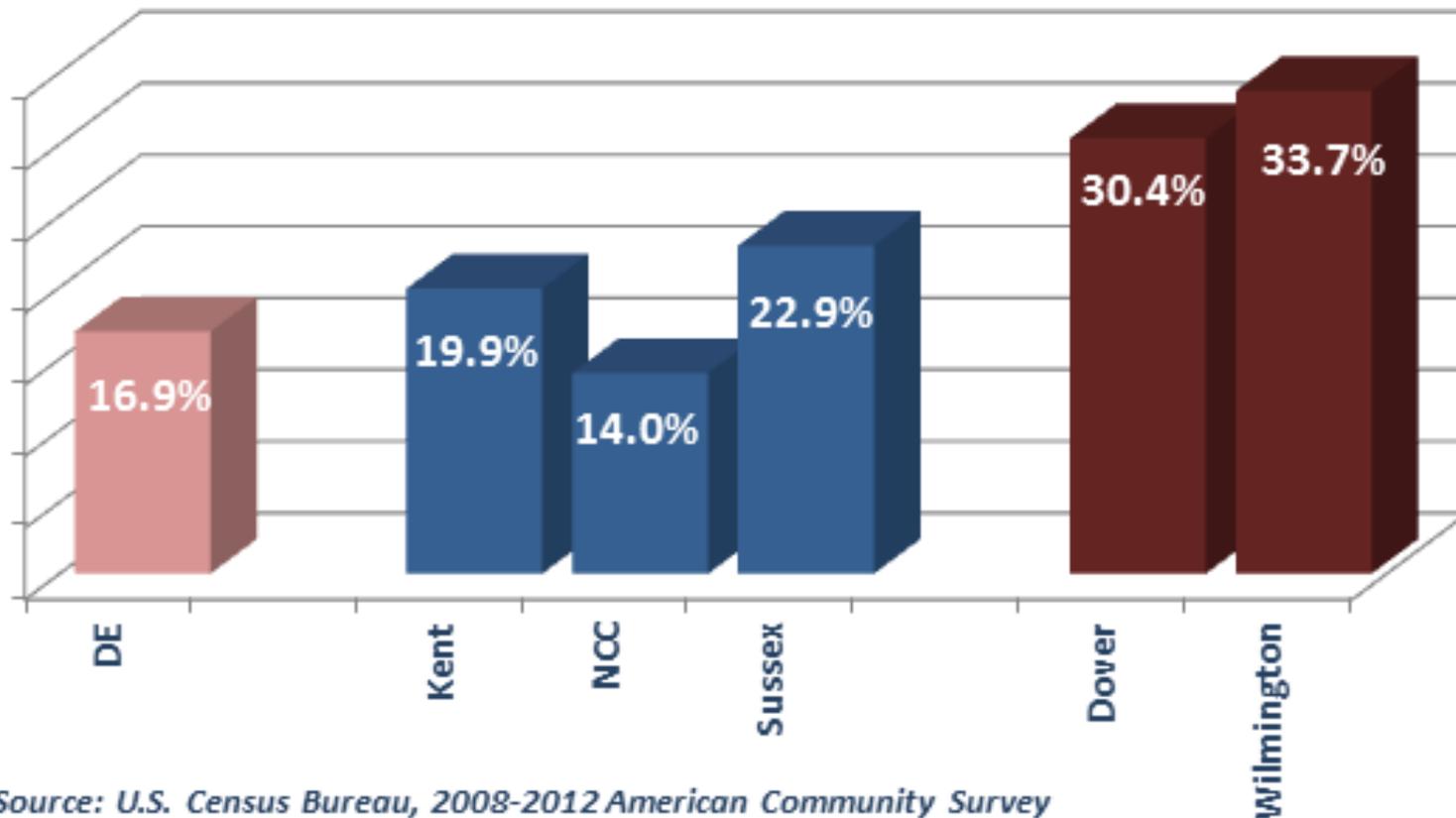
51% of students in public schools in Delaware are low income



Note: Low income status is determined by student participation in the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch program
Source: Southern Education Foundation calculations of NCES Common Core of Data, 2013. Retrieved from Layton, L. (2015, January 16). *Majority of U.S. public school students are in poverty*. The Washington Post. January 20, 2015.

More Than a Wilmington Problem

Delaware Child Poverty by County and Place,
Five-Year Average, 2008–2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

Note: The official poverty rate is calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau based on income thresholds and family structure and size. Source: University of Delaware's Center for Community Research and Service. (2014).

Interim Report Action Agenda

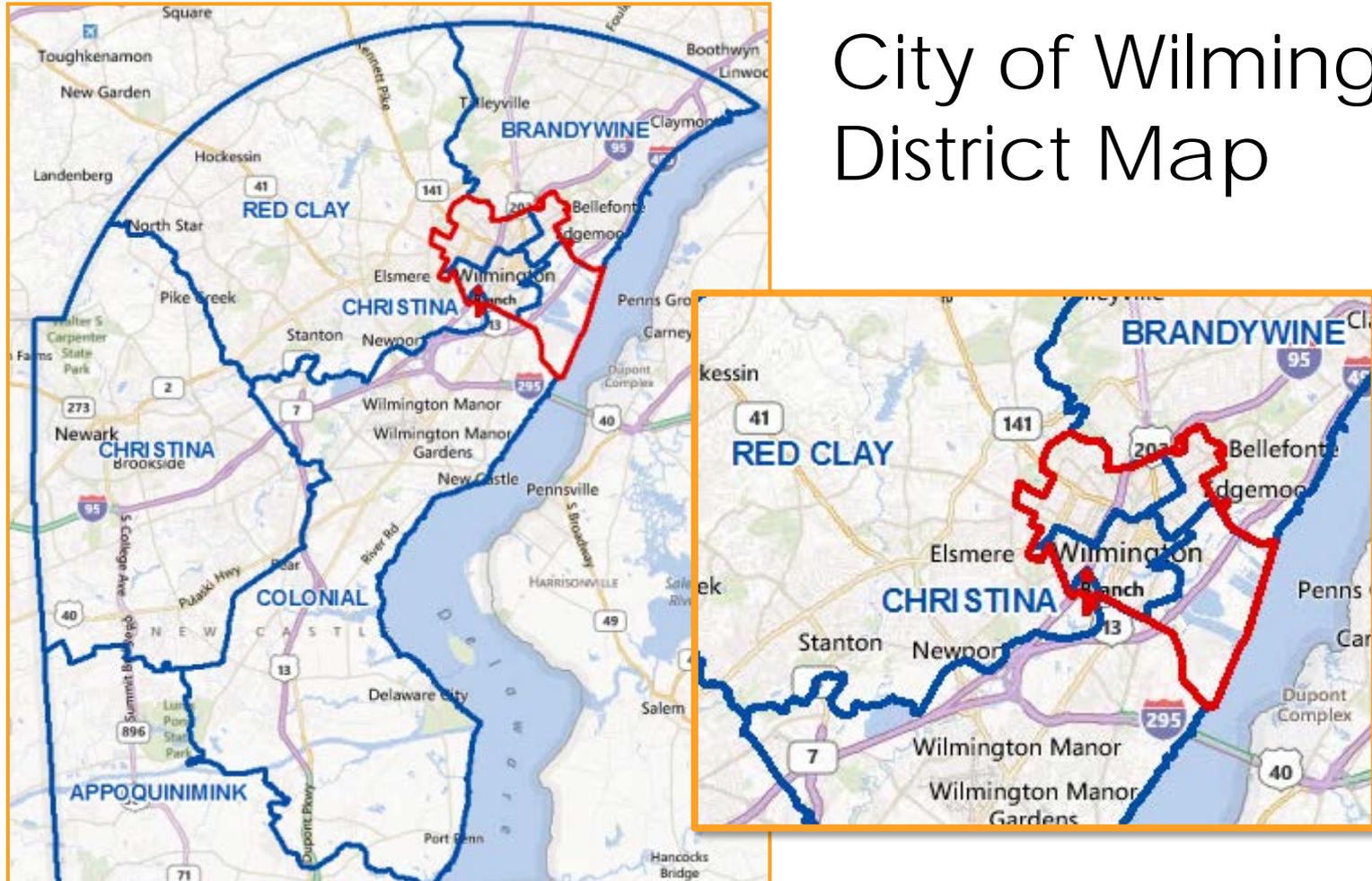
We focus in four areas of broad community concern.

1. Creating Responsive Governance
2. Meeting Wilmington Student Needs
3. Funding Student Success
4. Implementing Change

CREATING RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

Creating Responsive Governance

City of Wilmington District Map



Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2014). GIS Mapping.

Creating Responsive Governance

Schools Located within City of Wilmington Limits, Fall 2015

District	Elementary	Middle	High
Brandywine	Harlan Elementary School	P.S. duPont Middle School	N/A
Christina	Bancroft Elementary School Elbert-Palmer Elementary School Pulaski Elementary School Stubbs Elementary School	Bayard Middle School	N/A
Colonial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Red Clay Consolidated	Delaware College Preparatory Academy** Highlands Elementary School Lewis Dual Language Elementary School Shortlidge Academy Warner Elementary School	Cab Calloway School of the Arts*	Cab Calloway School of the Arts* Charter School of Wilmington**
NCC Vo-tech	N/A	N/A	Howard High School of Technology
State-Authorized Charter Schools (Grade Levels Vary)			
Delaware Design Lab High School****		Kuumba Academy	
East Side Charter School		La Academia Antonia Alonso	
Edison Charter School		Odyssey Charter School	
First State Montessori Academy		Prestige Academy	
Freire Charter School***		The Delaware MET***	
Great Oaks Charter School***			

Notes

Independent governing units are bolded.

This table does not include alternative schools located in the city.

Moyer Academic Institute and Reach Academy for Girls are not included, as they are proposed for closure.

*Magnet School

** Charter schools authorized by Red Clay Consolidated School District

*** New schools approved to open in Fall 2015

**** New schools approved to open in Fall 2015, may change planned location

Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2014). School Profiles.

Creating Responsive Governance

Strengthening the governance of Wilmington public education requires actions on three fronts.

1. Reducing the number of Wilmington school districts
2. Pursuing a new vision for Wilmington charter schools
3. Strengthening the role of the Wilmington community

Reconfiguring Wilmington School Districts

Traditional school districts operating in Wilmington should have a more streamlined configuration that better supports continuous improvement and community responsiveness.

Action Agenda

1. The Christina and Colonial School Districts should no longer serve Wilmington.
2. The Red Clay Consolidated, Brandywine, and New Castle County Vocational-Technical (NCC Vo-tech) School Districts should continue to serve Wilmington children.
3. Red Clay should take responsibility for all Wilmington schools currently under Christina.

Pursuing a New Vision for Wilmington Charter Schools

Charter schools should be guided by a new vision of responsibility for the overall effectiveness of public education that promotes shared capacity, collaboration, and best practices among all Wilmington schools.

Action Agenda

1. Governor Markell should call for a strategic plan for the development of charter schools.
2. The governor and state legislature, with the endorsement of the Wilmington city government, should establish and support a **Wilmington Charter Consortium** to promote shared capacity, collaboration, and best practices.

Strengthening the Role of the Wilmington Community

The Wilmington community and its city government should be engaged partners in the governance of Wilmington public education.

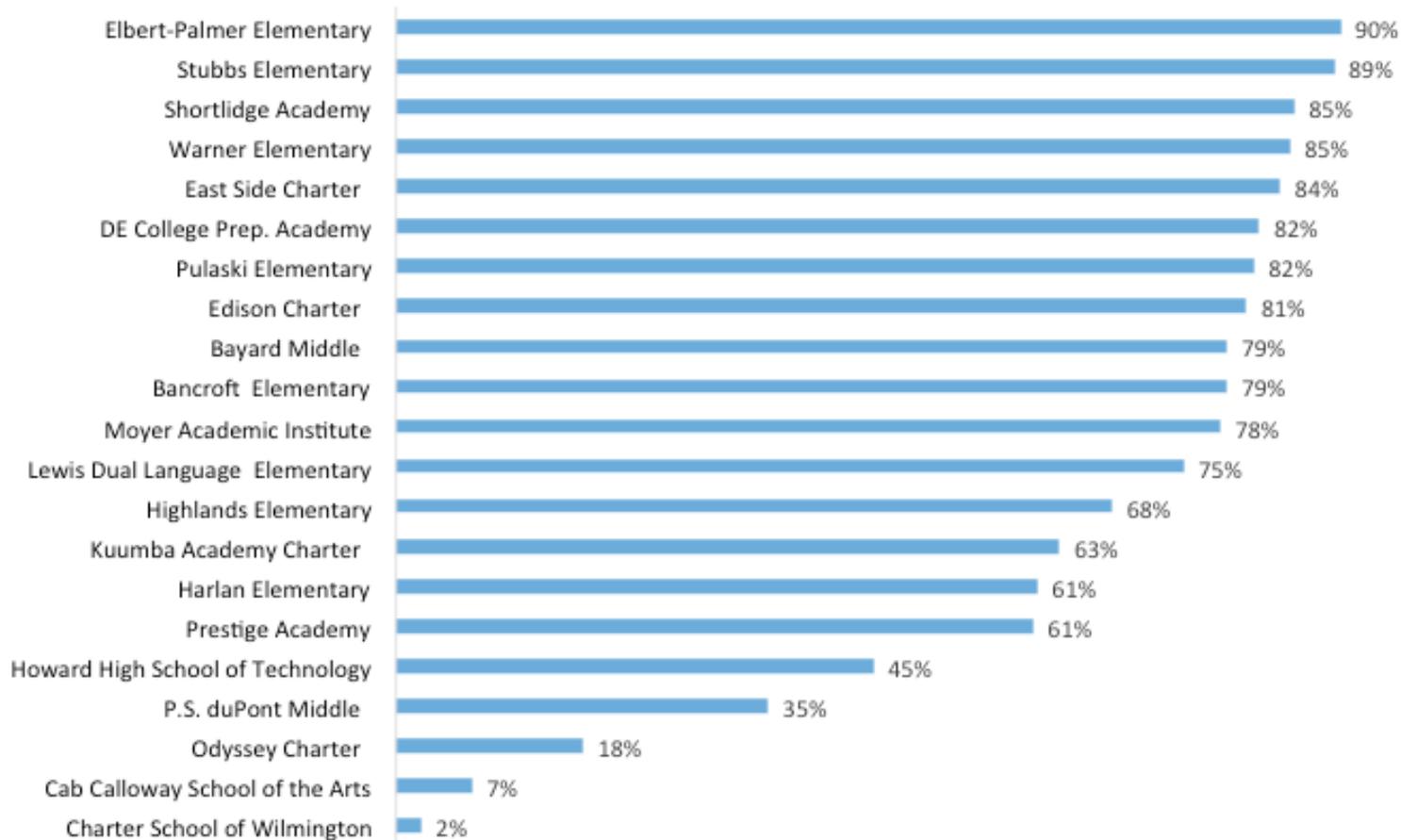
Action Agenda

1. The Advisory Committee endorses the Wilmington city government plan for an Office of Education and Public Policy.
2. In the new configuration, the boards of the Red Clay Consolidated and Brandywine School Districts should both be expanded to include additional members from Wilmington.
3. The Wilmington Charter Consortium should become a key vehicle for community partnership, working with the proposed Office of Education and Public Policy.

MEETING WILMINGTON STUDENT NEEDS

Meeting Wilmington Student Needs

Percentage of Low-Income Enrollment in Wilmington Schools in 2014



Note: Low-income status is determined by a student who receives either Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Source: Delaware Department of Education. (2014). *School Profiles*.

Meeting Wilmington Student Needs

Action Agenda

1. The governor and state legislature should **mandate the IRMC to develop a comprehensive plan for the integration of services** for low-income children and families, and for schools with high concentrations of poverty. The plan should include recommendations for redirecting current state funding.
2. The State should use its **existing policy infrastructure** to implement the comprehensive plan, including partnerships with private and nonprofit institutions, which will create a community of support for low-income children and their families.
3. The plan, including initial **recommendations** for program and policy changes and funding requirements, should be **submitted to the governor and state legislature** in January 2016.

FUNDING STUDENT SUCCESS

Funding Student Success

Action Agenda

1. The General Assembly should **approve a weighted student funding formula or a modification to the current unit count formula** that incorporates allocations for schools with high concentrations of students in poverty and English language learners, and expands special education status to grades K–3.
2. Strengthen the revenue base supporting public education at both the state and local levels. **Property reassessment** should be implemented without further delay and undertaken on an ongoing schedule that reflects national best practices.

Funding Student Success

Action Agenda (cont'd)

3. Funding adjustments should be made to support the costs of district reorganization. **A needs assessment** should be conducted to evaluate whether the remaining districts in Wilmington require new middle and high schools in the city.
4. The General Assembly should approve enabling legislation for the City of Wilmington to increase revenue, subject to approval by the City Council and the Mayor, for the specific support of an Office of Education and Public Policy.
5. The Advisory Committee endorses the increased investment needed and already anticipated to sustain and accelerate advances in early childhood learning and in workforce and college access that meet the needs of low-income students.

IMPLEMENTING CHANGE

Implementing Change

Action Agenda

1. **The Governor and General Assembly should create the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission**, a broadly representative, cross-sector partnership outside of existing state agencies.

The Commission should:

- Serve as the state advisory commission on planning and implementing these recommendations.
- Advise the governor and legislature on improvements for all schools with high concentrations of children in poverty.
- Issue an annual report to the governor and state legislature describing the progress of implementation and proposals for continuous improvement in Wilmington education.
- Unless reauthorized, terminate June 30, 2020.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Opportunity for Public Comments

Contact the Wilmington Education Advisory Committee outreach team for public comment and participation.

- **Email:** wilmingtonschools@gmail.com
- **Message Box (Google Voice/Text):** (302) 385-6206
- **Feedback Form:** <http://bit.ly/wilmschools>
- **Facebook Group:**
www.facebook.com/groups/wilmingtonschools/
- **Meetup Group:** www.meetup.com/Solutions-for-Wilmington-Schools/