

Letter of Intent

October 12, 2017

Dear Christina Wilmington Community,

This letter memorializes an agreement between the Christina School District, Christina Education Association, and the Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement to work together with the goal of improving educational opportunities in the City of Wilmington, supporting educators and students in our city, and helping every child meet his or her full potential.

In planning for the long-term success of these schools, the Governor's office, Christina School District, Christina Education Association, and Delaware Department of Education intend to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this calendar year and submit the MOU for CSD Board approval. The MOU will define the roles and commitments of each party in crafting a system designed to create great public schools for every Christina student in the City of Wilmington.

In the short term, this collaboration will feature evidence-based best practices to improve teaching and learning in classrooms across the Christina schools in Wilmington. The Office of Innovation and Improvement – a division of the Department of Education – has already begun substantive efforts to provide these schools with intensive supports. Currently, this involves the following:

- *Trauma-Informed Supports:* A Compassionate Connections Partnership with the Delaware State Education Association, the Office of the Child Advocate, and Bayard, Bancroft, and Elbert-Palmer, to ensure safe, supportive, and trauma-sensitive schools. Supports will be expanded and strengthened for more positive school climate(s) in all of the Christina Wilmington schools.
- *Meeting Student Needs:* Basic Needs Closets will be available at Christina Wilmington elementary and middle schools to ensure students have their basic necessities met in order to focus on their education.
- *Elevating Instruction:* All Christina Wilmington schools will receive support in implementing a new math curriculum. Furthermore, Bayard has received a full-time, school embedded math coach, supported by the Department to help elevate instruction.
- *Opportunity Grant:* Christina will be the recipient of an Opportunity Grant, which will enhance trauma-informed supports to Elbert-Palmer's school community.

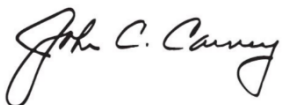
In the long-term, our aim is to provide additional flexibility for Christina school leaders and teachers in the city to achieve results for our students. In order to do so, the Department, Christina School District, and Christina Education Association will collaborate to engage educators in these schools to craft a plan that meets the needs of our students. We plan to discuss how to maximize and allocate additional resources into schools, to make certain that students, families, and educators alike have the tools at their disposal for success. We plan to explore innovative models that allow us to do so within the confines of the traditional public school system, ensuring our schools have the opportunity to see increased wraparound and out-of-school services, in addition to elevated instructional practice and support. The undersigned agree that urgent change is needed and vow to work together to create such change in the least disruptive way for students.

Additionally, Governor Carney's Family Services Cabinet Council will collaborate with a Christina School District team to create and implement a two-generation center, designed to provide support to our earliest learners and their parents. This center will be designed with the intention of ensuring children begin life with the educational foundation they deserve, and parents receive the educational and job training supports needed for career and home life success.

The undersigned will work closely with community members, parents, and key stakeholders to make certain this plan is created by the Christina community in the City, for the Christina community in the City, keeping our children's best interest at the forefront of everything we do, and empowering schools to do what is best for their students.

Together, we are committed to equipping every Christina Wilmington student with the excellent education they so richly deserve. We are partnering in this endeavor to do what is right for and deserved by our students. As a community, it is time to wrap our arms around our Wilmington schools, with urgency and intention, to chart a successful path forward.

Sincerely,



John C. Carney
Governor



Richard Gregg
Superintendent



Darren Tyson
President
Christina Education Association



Dorrell Green
Director
Innovation and Improvement



Susan Bunting
Secretary
Department of Education