



May 12, 2016

**RED CLAY CONSOLIDATED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Mervin B. Daugherty, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Administrative Offices**  
1502 Spruce Avenue  
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**Office of the Superintendent**

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TO: Red Clay Colleagues and Families,

RE: Important Legislation

Over the last several years educators throughout the state have been concerned about appropriate funding to support various student needs in the classroom. It is not a local district issue, but something that must be addressed on a statewide level. This year, I have been very vocal throughout the state addressing the concerns of the lack of funding support from the Delaware Department of Education and the Delaware General Assembly. This spring we have the opportunity to see legislators, educators and community members unite to support children.

House Bill 30 is currently being considered in the General Assembly. This bill addresses a significant oversight in critical funding for students with disabilities from Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The impact is not just for special education students alone, but impacts the resources available to every school throughout the district as we work to balance needs and resources for all students. Successful passage of House Bill 30 is an extremely important step in ensuring the success of our students and teachers in Red Clay and throughout Delaware.

As a community, our collective voices can make a difference. I am asking for your support by contacting your local state legislators and advising them to support HB 30 this year. State legislators must make sure this bill receives the appropriate funding and support from the 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. I continue to hear messages from Dover on how important education is for children at the early elementary level. I believe it is time for the General Assembly to act and help the children throughout the state.

The Red Clay Consolidated School District Board of Education also recognizes the need for appropriate supports for all students. At their May 11, 2016 meeting, the Red Clay Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution supporting HB 30 as well as calling for systemic changes in the funding formula to address the needs of all students including English Language Learners and students in poverty. As a state, we must address the discrepancies within the funding formula that fail to address the resources our students need. We have great concerns that if the lack of appropriate funding is not addressed by the 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, students will continue to be underrepresented in the needed supports for academic and social growth.

House Bill 30 and the Red Clay School Board Resolution in support of this important legislation is posted on the Red Clay website at [www.redclayschools.com](http://www.redclayschools.com). Please review the information and join me in the request for improved funding for our students. The legislation will be considered in the coming weeks and we need to make sure our voices are heard. Together we are the voices representing not just the future, but the immediate needs of over 16,000 students in our community.

Thank you for your continued support of the children and teachers of Red Clay.

Respectfully,



Mervin B. Daugherty, Ed.D.

**Red Clay School Board  
Red Clay Consolidated School District**

**Resolution: Resolution Concerning Funding for Education**

**WHEREAS**, the Red Clay Consolidated School District Board of Education recognizes the need for appropriate supports for all students, not only in the district, but throughout the state;

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Red Clay School Board, in recent years, have expressed serious concerns over appropriate funding to meet the educational needs of children from the Delaware General Assembly;

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Red Clay School Board believe early childhood supports and intervention are critical to meeting students' long term needs for success.

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Red Clay School Board have identified a discrepancy within the unit count that does not adequately address the needs of Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students classified as Basic.

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Red Clay School Board have great concerns that if the lack of appropriate funding is not addressed by the 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, students in early grades will continue to not receive the needed support for academic and social growth.

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Red Clay School Board have also identified and worked closely with both the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission and Education Funding Improvement Commission to highlight the lack of critical resources and appropriate funding formula to meet the educational needs of at-risk ELL and high poverty students.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, we respectfully request that the 148<sup>th</sup> Delaware General Assembly support the appropriate funding in the unit count as requested in House Bill 30, to meet the needs of Delaware children through the state in kindergarten through grade 3.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** we respectfully request the 148<sup>th</sup> Delaware General Assembly take action to modify the funding formula to include resources for ELL and high poverty students.

**Submitted by:**

Red Clay Consolidated School District Board of Education

  
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Kenneth J Rivera, President

  
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Michael Piccio, Vice President

  
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Adriana Leela Bohm, Ph.D.

  
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Faith R Newton, Ed.D.

  
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Catherine H Thompson, Esquire

  
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Kenneth R Woods

**Action: RCCSD Board of Education Meeting  
Date: May 11, 2016**