



## Did You Know?

APRIL 9, 2026

Beginning August 2027, Red Clay's McKean Innovation Center will redefine secondary education, giving students cutting-edge learning experiences, opportunities, and industry-recognized credentials.

**The changes coming with Reimagining Secondary Education in Red Clay include 3 Core Principles:**

- 1. Alignment of Attendance-Zones:** Create straight line feeder patterns between high school attendance zones and existing middle school attendance-zones.
- 2. Balanced Enrollment:** Distribute students equitably across attendance-zone high schools.
- 3. Program Equity:** Ensure that all students, regardless of high school, have access to high-quality academic and extracurricular programs.

Delaware schools earn educator allocations and funding based on student enrollment. Enrollment is also vital to offering a full range of programming to a diverse high school community.

While Red Clay is the largest school district in Delaware, it currently operates three of the smallest comprehensive, attendance-zone high schools in the state.

A.I. duPont High School (543), John Dickinson High School (760), and Thomas McKean High School (917) are all under-enrolled compared to the optimal comprehensive high school capacity of 1,000+ students.

### Why Did This Happen?

Middle and high school enrollment has remained constant; however, the district has increased from 5 to 7 high schools and from 6 to 8 middle schools since 2002.

The UD Center for Applied Demography & Survey Research estimates that Red Clay's enrollment will decline from 15,000 to 12,000 between 2020 and 2050.

### Our Plan

**Strong & Sustainable Enrollment:** 1,000+ students attending each of our comprehensive high schools will allow for strong and sustainable programming to meet the needs and interests of all students.

### Expected Outcomes

Expanded **career programming**. Broader range of **elective offerings**.

Additional **AP and dual-enrollment courses**. Increased **athletic programs** with sub-varsity competition.

Comprehensive **extra-curricular and co-curricular activities**.

Regular updates will be shared through this Fact Sheet.

For questions or additional information, please email [info@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:info@redclay.k12.de.us) or visit: <https://www.redclayschools.com/schools-programs/reimagining-secondary-education>