



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Roy S. Roberts
Emergency Manager

*Fisher Building – 14th Floor
3011 W. Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48202-2710*

*Phone: (313) 870-3772
Fax: (313) 870-3726
www.detroitk12.org*

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Detroit Public Schools has announced a comprehensive transformation plan aimed at improving academics and creating a more efficient system of high-performing schools for all DPS students. By doing so early, much earlier than has traditionally been the case in Detroit, parents can make plans for enrollment and also seek information about their children's schools.

This is a critically important time in the history of Detroit Public Schools and for our city. I have stated frequently that Detroit Public Schools must not only be a part of Detroit's comeback, it must LEAD it. We have been using an outdated educational model that we must discard. We must embark on a bold and ambitious journey that I believe will return this City to its rightful place as the world class leader in public education, a position it once held.

The announcement included the following:

- Due to declining enrollment and shifting demographics, we have 69,616 students, preK-12th grade, in a district with seats for 110,660 students. The vacant seats, taken together, represent what would be equivalent to the second largest school district in the state. And, future trends call for continued reduction in school-age population. Rather than continue to support buildings that are far under-utilized, we will close, consolidate and merge schools, allowing us to drive additional resources to a smaller group of higher-quality facilities and to our students in those buildings.
- Detroit Public Schools will charter four schools that face enrollment and facilities challenges and have been under-performing based on state standards. The rigorous DPS process to select proven charter operators that have demonstrated success with raising academic achievement will provide a new opportunity for these schools. We will continue to serve as the charter authorizer and will monitor their academic and fiscal progress.
- I, along with Chancellor John Covington of the new statewide Education Achievement System, will place 15 historically low-performing schools in the new system, where they will be wrapped in additional resources and given greater autonomy to succeed. The schools selected are among the 5 percent of schools that ranked lowest in the state for achievement.
- We will open four additional brand new buildings for the fall as part of the district's bond construction project, which will allow us to consolidate 7 outdated buildings so that 4,500 children may start the year in state-of-the-art facilities designed for 21st century learning. These four schools represent \$150 million in educational investments thanks to Detroit voters. Already, some 10,000 Detroit students are learning every day inside new or renovated buildings opened this past year through this program.

Your school -- Finney High School -- is among the schools that are a part of this transformation.

While the current school building will close, a new \$46.5 million, 221,000-square-foot high school is being constructed at the site of the former Finney High School. The new school will be named **East English Village Preparatory Academy** and will accommodate up to 1,200 students. Students in grades 10-12 from Finney and Crockett high schools will attend the new building. All incoming 9th grade students must complete an application to attend, hold a minimum 2.5 grade point average, and undergo an interview with the Admissions Committee. Applicants must have a strong interest in one of the EEVPA career pathways including:

- **Career and Technical Education** with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Career pathways under this program include:
 - Business Management, Marketing and Technology, Health Sciences, Engineering/Management and Industrial Technology
- **Middle College**
 - Middle College students will have the unique opportunity to take college courses while in high school. Students who complete the program can earn an Associate's Degree or enter a four-year university as a sophomore or junior depending on the amount of credit hours they complete.
- **Fine & Performing Arts** career pathways include:
 - Instrumental Music, Theater Arts, Choral Music, Dance and Visual Arts

The facility will include eight science laboratories, a high-tech media center, a performing arts section, and an athletic complex with a community health clinic. Special programs will include a Summer Bridge Program for all incoming 9th graders; a double dose of English and Mathematics for all 9th and 10th graders; ACT preparation courses and more. The new school stadium will have a multi-seasonal, synthetic field for track, football, soccer and other athletic programs. East English Village Preparatory Academy is among the 18 new or renovated schools that are a part of the \$500.5 million DPS Capital Improvement Program.

While we know that transition is difficult, we are doing everything possible to ensure a smooth start of the school year by starting this process now. A new Open Enrollment period will be held during the month of March to allow for important decisions to be made. Wrapping up the school assignments for current students early will allow for staffing and budgeting decisions to be made on a timely basis, to ensure a smooth start to the new school year including the placement of a teacher in front of every child on the first day of school.

Most importantly, through this transition plan, we are doing everything possible to ensure that all children in Detroit Public Schools have the opportunity to succeed at the highest levels and direct resources where they are needed most. Together we will make Detroit Public Schools the best system of quality schools of any city in the nation.

Please go to detroitk12.org/achievement for more information. We will continue to keep you informed.

Sincerely,



Roy S. Roberts

Emergency Manager, Detroit Public Schools