

# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

Office of the Interim Superintendent

Alycia Meriweather  
Interim Superintendent  
Fisher Building, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3011 West Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-873-7922

September 6, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your child is currently attending a Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) Focus School as identified on the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Top-to-Bottom list.

During the 2014-15 school year, every school in Michigan was required to test students using the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) or Michigan Merit Exam (MME). The results of these tests, as well as participation in the tests, were used to determine whether schools were meeting Michigan School Proficiency Targets and where they ranked in a "Top to Bottom" list of schools and their performance. As a result of this ranking, your child's school was identified as a Focus School (see enclosed list). Please note that test results from 2014-15 were used again for this year's ranking due to the State's transition to online testing, and therefore, there were one additional school added to the public Focus List for this year.

The identification of Focus Schools is based on the academic improvement and achievement gap status of the school in mathematics, reading, science, social studies or writing. Focus Schools are those with the largest achievement gaps, defined as the difference between the average scale score for the top 30 percent of students and the bottom 30 percent of students. This year, your child's school is identified as a Focus School because of the size of the gap in achievement between the highest performing and the lowest performing students.

In order to improve student learning and to address this problem, DPS is working with your child's school and implementing the following:

- Adopting a nationally recognized, high performance leadership and instructional framework that supports rigorous and improved instruction;
- Using Title I set-aside funds to target strategic supplemental interventions to improve student achievement;

- Schoolwide Implementation of positive behavior intervention support which emphasizes model behavior in the school setting;
- Expanding professional development for instructional staff and teacher leaders;
- Use of data dialogues to identify the teaching and learning priorities;
- Differentiated instruction; and,
- Technical assistance from MDE, Wayne Regional Education Service Agency, (WRESA) and Michigan State University.

For the 2016-17 school year, DPSCD will not offer students the opportunity to transfer to another school that is not identified as a Priority or Focus School. Students whose parents elected to transfer to another school under the Choice Transfer option in previous years may continue to attend the Choice Transfer option school until the student has completed the highest grade in that school. The District will continue to provide transportation to the Choice Transfer option school.

We appreciate your support and look forward to a productive academic year with your child. If you need additional information, please contact Robbin Meeks, Director of Grant Compliance at (313) 873-7661 and she will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alycia Meriweather". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alycia Meriweather  
Interim Superintendent  
Detroit Public Schools Community District

**WHAT ARE PRIORITY SCHOOLS?**

Priority Schools are Michigan schools in the bottom 5% (five percent) of the annual Top—to-Bottom ranking, an any high school with a graduation rate of less than 60% (60 percent) for three consecutive years.

**SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED AS A PRIORITY SCHOOL**

A school identified as Priority for the 2015-2016 school year remains part of a four-year cohort of schools supervised by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) State School Reform/Redesign Office until Spring 2017, even if the school is not re-identified as a Priority school in the 2015 cohort.

**WHAT ARE FOCUS SCHOOLS?**

Focus Schools are identified as the 10% (ten percent) of Michigan schools that have the widest gap in student achievement between their lowest and highest performing students. These schools have the greatest issues in supporting their lowest achieving students, whether their overall performance is high or low.

**SCHOOLS IDENTIFIED AS A FOCUS SCHOOL**

A school identified as a Focus School is part of a cohort or a period of four years. As a result of the school improvement efforts by the school and the District, if a school is no longer identified as a Focus School for the 2015-2016 school year, it will be followed by MDE through Spring 2016; however, all required activities and supports related to the school’s identification as a Focus School are conditionally suspended by the MDE.

**Detroit Public Schools Community Schools  
Focus School List**

	<b><u>Name of School Named</u></b>	<b><u>School Code</u></b>	<b><u>ISD Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title I Status</u></b>	<b><u>Year first</u></b>
1.	Davison Elementary- Middle School	00880	Wayne RESA	Title I, Part A	2013