



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chancellor

January 23, 2020

Dear Washington Metropolitan High School Students,

DC Public Schools (DCPS) has a responsibility to create learning environments so that every student can succeed at their neighborhood school. For some of our secondary students, however, the programming available at our Opportunity Academies is sometimes a better fit for a variety of reasons. Through our Opportunity Academies, it is our goal to ensure that students who have had exceptions with traditional school models have the school community and necessary supports that will prepare them for success in college, career, and life beyond graduation.

Following an evaluation of school programming and outcomes, I reached out to the Washington Metropolitan High School community on November 26, 2019 to announce a proposed closure of the school. After meeting with students and gathering feedback from other stakeholders on the proposal, we have reached a decision: **DCPS is moving forward on our recommendation to close Washington Metropolitan High School at the end of School Year 2019-2020.**

First, I would like to thank you for using your voice to advocate for yourselves and your education. Following the proposal announcement, several students expressed concern with it and what has been perceived as a lack of investments in the school. Through the community meetings and student listening sessions DCPS leadership hosted over the last few months, I want you to know that you were heard, and we believe you will be best served at other Opportunity Academies or neighborhood schools with more programmatic offerings and student services. We have collected your feedback, and we will use it to inform individualized transition plans to ensure you have the academic and social emotional supports needed for a smooth transition.

By increasing supports for you through attendance initiatives and robust academic progress monitoring to ensure you finish School Year 2019-2020 strong and on the path to graduation, we hope to demonstrate how committed DCPS is to your learning and your success. The attached FAQ provides you with the necessary information, including contacts, so you know what school options are available to you for School Year 2020-21 and have the support to pursue those — via placement process, lottery (application extended until March 2), or enrollment at in-boundary school.

During my visits to Washington Metropolitan High School, I have been fortunate to speak with many of you about your goals. After hearing your plans for your bright futures, I left the building even more convinced that each of you is deserving of the best educational experience DCPS can offer.

As your district's leader, I believe in you, and I know you will excel in your next school. I look forward to following your achievements through graduation and beyond.

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.

Chancellor, DC Public Schools