



November 26, 2019

Dear Washington Metropolitan High School Parents and Families,

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), we value and are committed to fostering a learning environment that serves the educational experience of every student. Our Opportunity Academies across the city are designed to provide students with the school community and necessary supports to prepare them for college, career, and life beyond graduation.

In our work to place students first, we are constantly evaluating how we can improve that educational experience for our students. **A review of enrollment and instructional programs at Washington Metropolitan High School have led the district to propose closing the school at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.** This closure is being proposed in service of improving educational opportunities for Washington Metropolitan students, and we recognize the importance of partnering with families in making this decision. Before finalizing the proposal, DCPS would like to hear your comments, questions, and concerns around your child's education options.

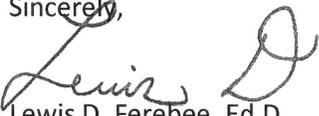
I invite you to share your perspectives on this proposal at one of our special community meetings. The first meeting will take place **Monday, December 9** from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Washington Metropolitan High School. The second meeting will be held **Thursday, December 12** from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Martha's Table, 2375 Elvans Road SE. Members of DCPS senior leadership will be in attendance to hear your concerns and answer your questions.

Principal Bradford and the dedicated staff of Washington Metropolitan High School have held a steadfast commitment to the school community, and that commitment will continue as we work together to preserve and build upon the strengths of the existing school program. We are confident that this proposal is in the best interest of students and families and would yield positive results. Throughout this process, we will closely engage with students and families around education options and help coordinate transitions to other Opportunity Academies and neighborhood schools with more programmatic offerings and student supports.

School closures are challenging, and we understand that you may have questions about this proposal. Please find attached a list of Frequently Asked Questions we have compiled to address the most common inquiries. As we engage with your school community, we will continue to update this FAQ resource with additional information—DCPS is committed to transparency and ongoing communication.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Principal Bradford directly at (202) 939-3610 or Ronald.Bradford@k12.dc.gov. DCPS Central Office is also providing support, and Ms. Helen Tzow from our Strategic School Planning Team is available to answer questions at (202) 520-2277 or Helen.Tzow@k12.dc.gov.

Sincerely,


Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor

Washington Metropolitan High School Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this proposal being considered?

Multiple factors informed how we arrived at this proposal. The data demonstrates limited progress and low levels of student connection. Additionally, the school program has struggled with declines in high school attendance, graduation rate and enrollment over time. Compared to the other Opportunity Academies in DCPS' portfolio, Washington Metropolitan has consistently underperformed. We believe Washington Metropolitan students can be better served at other Opportunity Academies or programs and are confident this proposal is in the best interest of students.

How can we provide feedback on this proposal? Are there opportunities for us to meet with DCPS?

Yes. DCPS will be hosting two special community meetings. We encourage you to attend one of these meetings to share your perspective on this proposal.

Monday, December 9
6 – 7:30 PM
Washington Metropolitan HS
300 Bryant Street NW

Thursday, December 12
6 – 7:30 PM
Martha's Table
2375 Elvans Road SE

When would this closure occur?

If this proposal is approved, Washington Metropolitan would close at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We aim to make the decision no later than mid- January to ensure families have enough time to apply to the My School DC lottery for School Year 2020-2021.

How would staff at Washington Metropolitan be affected?

Staff would be reduced and subject to the provisions of the relevant collective bargaining agreements. If the staff member is interested in remaining with DCPS, they will be entered into the approved candidate pool for a SY20-21 position. DCPS will also hold several job fairs for candidates in the approved pool to learn about available positions at other DCPS schools during the spring. Approval for a SY20-21 position will be contingent on future eligibility due to IMPACT and licensure requirements.

How would the central office support Washington Metropolitan during this process?

If the proposal is approved, Central Office Teams will work closely with school staff to support families and students as they decide on their school choice for School Year 2020-2021. Members of the Student Placement and Enrollment Teams will be available at both community meetings for questions and support and if the proposal is approved will work individually with each student to ensure a smooth transition. Washington Metropolitan staff will have designated points-of-contact from all the necessary central offices and teams (Staffing, Recruitment and Selection, Office of Secondary Schools, Division of Specialized Instruction, Student Placement, and Enrollment) to answer any questions throughout the transition.

What can currently enrolled students expect for this school year?

The DCPS Secondary School Team and Principal Bradford are committed to ensuring that the program remains focused on instruction and services to students. We also understand that a proposal like this

may cause students to want to transfer to another school mid-year. We want to advise students and families that there are benefits to completing the year at Washington Metropolitan High School. Leaving mid-year could disrupt a student's ability to complete courses and earn credit. If you have questions or concerns about this, please reach out to school staff to better understand the credit accrual, retention and promotion policies. If you have questions about enrollment options, we will have members of the enrollment team available at both community meetings or you can reach out directly to Lauren.Brooks@k12.dc.gov.

What are the program offerings at the other Opportunity Academies?

Opportunity Academies offer a personalized competency-based learning program to ensure that all students in the district have a positive pathway to post-secondary success. DCPS has three other Opportunity Academies students can be placed with: Ballou STAY (Ward 8), Luke C. Moore (Ward 5), and Roosevelt STAY (Ward 4). Below is an outline of program offerings at each of these three Opportunity Academies:

Ballou STAY	Luke C. Moore HS	Roosevelt STAY
— College Summit	— College Summit	— College Summit
— Digital media	— Digital Media	— Culinary Arts
— Early Childhood Education	— Finance	— Early Childhood Education
— Barbering	— Personal responsibility coaches	— Mass Media
— Cosmetology	— Internships	— Barbering
— Internships	— Athletics through the Opportunity League	— Cosmetology
— Athletics through the Opportunity League		— Internships
		— Athletics through the Opportunity League

What would happen to the Washington Metropolitan building?

Should this proposal be approved, DCPS would maintain the building in its inventory for future use.

Who makes the final decision about whether the school is closed?

Chancellor Ferebee makes recommendations for school closures to Mayor Bowser, who will make the final decision.

Who can I contact at DCPS if I have question about the transition?

If you have any general questions or concerns, please reach out to Helen Tzow, the DCPS Central Office point of contact for this process at Helen.Tzow@k12.dc.gov or (202) 520-2277.