



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chancellor

January 23, 2020

Dear Washington Metropolitan High School Community,

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), one of the most important ways we support our students is by providing loving, challenging learning environments that serve the educational experience of every student. 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 gathering feedback from stakeholders on the proposal and recognizing that DCPS has a responsibility to create learning environments so that every student can succeed at their neighborhood school, 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.** Here is how we arrived at this decision.

The closure of a school is never taken lightly. From the end of November through the beginning of January, DCPS engaged over 200 stakeholders to ensure we heard from students, staff, families, and community members as we made a decision that we feel would best improve the education opportunities for Washington Metropolitan students. I would like to highlight our two biggest priorities as we coordinate the transition of Washington Metropolitan's students to other Opportunity Academies, application schools, or neighborhood schools with more programmatic offerings and student supports.

**Targeted Academic Progress:** To ensure students do not lose progress with any credits they are working on, a process to monitor and support students will be implemented as they work toward course completion during the remainder of School Year 2019-2020.

**Individualized Student Support:** To ensure students and families know what school options to consider for School Year 2020-2021 and have the support to pursue those — via either placement process, lottery, or enrollment at in-boundary school — one-on-one academic and social emotional support transition plans will be tailored for each student along with in-person family meetings.

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. We are confident that this closure is in the best interest of students and families and will yield positive results. Throughout this transition, we will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure students remain first.

Below, I have included a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and if you have additional inquiries, Ms. Helen Tzow from our Strategic School Planning Team can be reached (202) 520-2277 or [Helen.Tzow@k12.dc.gov](mailto:Helen.Tzow@k12.dc.gov).

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.

Chancellor, DC Public Schools