

December 2017

Dear School District Families and Caregivers:

As you may have heard, the School Reform Commission, the body that currently governs the School District of Philadelphia, has voted to disband at the end of this school year.

What this means for students and schools

Beginning in July 2018, a locally-appointed Board of Education will oversee the District.

We want to assure you that the City and the School District are focused on a smooth and seamless transition. The programs and activities that have been showing success will continue. The School District will remain focused on early literacy, preparing students for college and career, and recruiting and retaining great talent.

We believe this change will continue the progress and momentum of the School District and lead to more students reading on grade level, graduating high school ready for college or a career. It will allow City agencies and the District to collaborate more effectively and efficiently so services can benefit more students and families. We are committed to ensuring that schools have adequate resources, and that we continue to build on the District's recent academic progress.

What's next

Starting in January, an Educational Nominating Panel of city leaders and local residents will review candidates for the new Board. Nine committed and qualified individuals who represent the diversity of our city and the School District will be asked to serve on the Board. We will continue to share information about this process as it unfolds.

As we move forward, it is important for us to gather input from all Philadelphians -- especially parents -- to inform our future priorities. Please lend your voice to this important effort.

Fill out our online survey to tell us what you think is important to consider as they choose candidates for the Board: www.phila.gov/localcontrolsurvey

Thank you for your support as we all embark on this process. Together, we can ensure that there are quality schools in every neighborhood and create a brighter future for our great city.

In service,


Mayor Jim Kenney
Superintendent William Hite