



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chancellor

January 27, 2021

Dear Lafayette Elementary School Community,

In November 2020, DCPS proposed to move the Lafayette PK program to the old Military Road School at 1375 Missouri Ave NW to help relieve the current and projected overcapacity concerns in the building. After two months of broad community engagement, we have decided not to pursue the proposed move. While we heard support for the proposal, the majority of stakeholders shared concerns which were factored into the final decision. We appreciate Principal Broquard's leadership and the thoughtful feedback from various stakeholders, including the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), Lafayette PK teachers, Ward 3 and 4 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, local civic associations, as well as current and prospective families.

Based on the feedback received by a wide range of stakeholders, DCPS has decided to move forward with opening a standalone, citywide early learning center. The new early learning center will open for School Year 2021-2022 with grades PK3 and PK4. This means there will be no boundary for the new school, and families from across the District can apply through the My School DC lottery. Stakeholders shared their support for offering a preference in the lottery for families that qualify as at-risk. While this won't go into effect for the 2021-22 school year, we look forward to implementing this for School Year 2022-23. This future preference would apply to families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), currently in foster care, or families experiencing homelessness. We look forward to keeping you updated on the planning efforts while we work to launch the new early childhood center.

As Lafayette continues to grow in enrollment and with few options to accommodate growth onsite, DCPS will continue to partner with the Department of General Services (DGS) to monitor available facilities and locations for future consideration.

We appreciate your continued partnership. Please don't hesitate to direct any questions to DCPS.Planning@k12.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Lewis D. Ferebee, Ed.D.
Chancellor, DC Public Schools