



Christina Vera, President • Dr. Tina Pierce, Vice President
Jennifer Adair • Michael Cole • Sarah Ingles
Ramona R. Reyes • Brandon Simmons

October 21, 2024

Dear Columbus City Schools Students, Parents, Teachers, and Staff,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we continue our work to ensure the best possible future for all our students, I wanted to take a moment to personally address the steps the Board of Education is taking and invite you to be an important part of the process.

We are beginning the second phase of the District's realignment process, which includes taking a closer look at the learning environments throughout Columbus City Schools. This can be a difficult topic, especially when it touches the places that hold so many memories and connections for students, families, staff, and our community as a whole. We understand that conversations about potential school closures can bring feelings of uncertainty, and we want to approach this process with care and empathy.

With that in mind, the Columbus Board of Education will visit in the coming weeks as part of a district-wide effort to engage with each school recommended for possible closure. These visits are a crucial part of our commitment to listen to you—our students, families, and staff—so that we can truly understand what makes your school special and what your hopes and concerns are for the future.

As we prepare for these visits, we will be hosting **community engagement sessions** to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their voice. We want to hear from you. We are also asking students, families, and staff to take part in a survey, which will allow you to provide specific feedback on what you want the Board to see and consider during our visit. Your insights will be invaluable as we work together to determine the best way to move forward, keeping the well-being of our students at the heart of every decision.

We recognize that this is an emotional time for many. Schools are more than just buildings—they are places where children grow, relationships flourish, and communities come together. Please know that we do not take this process lightly, and we deeply respect the bonds you have with your school. We are committed to working hand-in-hand with you, listening to your thoughts, and honoring your experiences as we reimagine what 21st-century learning could look like for our district.

Change is never easy, and we understand the feelings of uncertainty this brings. However, we believe that by working together, we can create a brighter future for all our students, one where their learning environments match the excellence we know they are capable of achieving.

Thank you for your continued support, your resilience, and for being an essential part of this conversation. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks as we shape the future of education for Columbus City Schools.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts by completing this short 4-question survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ccs_board_visit_survey

With understanding and gratitude,

Christina Vera

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Vera". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

President, Columbus Board of Education

Important Message From Board President Christina Vera: Phase II of School Realignment