



# HOPE COMMUNITY PCS

2917 8th St NE, Washington, DC 20017 | 202.832.7370 | HopeTolson.org

## School Closure Notification and Support for Families of Students with Disabilities

May 7, 2025

Dear Hope Community Families,

As you know Hope Community Public Charter School will close at the end of this academic school year. Our top priority is to ensure a smooth and supported transition for every student and family, especially those with unique learning needs.

We want to reassure you that your child's education, support services, and future school placement remain our top priority during this transition. If your child receives special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), this letter includes important information about what comes next.

### What You Need to Know if Your Child Has an IEP (Individualized Education Program)

**1. Continuing Special Education Services:** Until the school officially closes or your child enrolls in a new school, Hope Community PCS is responsible for making sure your child's IEP is followed and that they continue to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

**2. Transition to a New School:** When you enroll your child in a new District of Columbia public school, the new school must:

- Immediately begin providing comparable services to those in your child's current IEP.
- Either adopt your child's current IEP or hold a new IEP meeting to develop one specific to the new school.

Your child's new school will be able to access their special education records in the citywide system. ***We will also give you a paper copy and send an email with your child's IEP*** for your records.

**3. Next Steps for Extended School Year (ESY) Services** If your child qualifies for Extended School Year (ESY) services this summer:

- Please enroll in a new school as soon as possible, and no later than the last day of this school year, so your new school can plan for ESY services.
- If you have questions about ESY eligibility or enrollment, please contact our special education team.

### **Additional Information**

- We will provide a full copy of your child's special education file so you can bring it to the new school.
- All student IEPs will be reviewed and updated before the school year ends to ensure they are current and accessible to the new school team.
- We are working closely with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to ensure compliance and smooth transfer of services.
- We will also inform any organizations, service providers, or nonpublic schools that support your child of the closure, to avoid any disruption in services.

**We Are Here for You** We know this is a time of uncertainty, and we are committed to working with you to support your family through this change. If you have questions, please contact:

- **Christina Marino**, Special Education Consultant  
Phone: 240-389-7650  
Email: christina@hopetolson.org
- **Garreth McClue**, Special Education Coordinator  
Phone: 202-832-7370  
Email: gmclue@hopetolson.org

We thank you for being part of the Hope Tolson Community. We are proud of the growth and accomplishments your children have made here, and we will do everything we can to support a successful transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Rydstrom  
Acting CEO/Head of School