



HOPE COMMUNITY PCS

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

Friday, April 25th, 2025

Dear Hope Community Families, Students, Staff, and Community,

It is with heavy hearts that we write to share the decision to close Hope Community - Tolson at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. This decision did not come lightly, and we deeply regret that we are not bringing better news. Ultimately, we believe this is the most responsible path forward for our community.

Following a thorough review of school-wide data - including enrollment patterns and academic performance - and the conditions set by the DC Public Charter School Board during our 20-year review on March 17, 2025, we have concluded that meeting the imposed requirements within the given timeline is not feasible. Continuing to operate under these conditions would put undue burden on our students, families, and staff, and would prevent us from delivering the high-quality learning environment our community deserves.

Though this outcome is deeply disappointing, our commitment to this community remains unwavering. For our families and students, your well-being and academic continuity are our highest priorities. We are actively working to support you through the school matching and transition process for the 2025-2026 academic year. Information regarding a school fair hosted on campus is forthcoming.

To our dedicated teachers and staff, thank you for your resilience and care. You are the heart of Hope Community, and we will provide resources and support to navigate your next steps.

During this transition and through the closure, Justin Rydstrom will serve as Acting CEO of Hope Community to support our school leadership team and community. Justin has served in this role before, bringing seasoned leadership experience in DC charter schools to the team.

Since 2006, Hope Community - Tolson has served as a PK-8 campus committed to empowering leaders of today and tomorrow. We have prided ourselves in our STEAM-focused learning program, engaging in experiential learning, problem-solving, collaboration, and creativity. We hope that our students and staff remain Eagles at heart and continue to soar!

We are incredibly grateful for this community. Throughout the remainder of the school year, we will remain in close communication to ensure this transition is as thoughtful and seamless as possible.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees

Kerry Smith, Shereefat Balogun, Anisa Bailey, Allison Barr, Eric Johnson