

Dear Highland Park Renaissance Academy High School parents and students,

Your students deserve a well-rounded high school experience and the best education possible. The continuing loss of enrollment at Highland Park High School has made it more difficult to provide students with access to the classes and activities they are entitled to and deserve.

The high school now has about 160 students. The Leona Group, which has contracted to operate schools in the district, is struggling to offer the academic options and extracurricular activities that are available in nearby, larger schools.

Faced with these realities and working with the state Treasury Department and Leona Group representatives, I have determined it is better for children to close Highland Park High School and help families find new opportunities in these nearby programs. We are working closely with Detroit Public Schools (which will serve as the home district), the Education Achievement Authority, area charter schools, and other entities. Everyone will be guaranteed a spot somewhere.

I realize that such a change can be upsetting for families; especially those who have lived in Highland Park all of their lives and are approaching graduation. Please know that we are committed to providing our students with the best education possible. We will do everything we can to help make each of you aware of the school choices and options, and that this change is as smooth as possible. That includes working to assure ease of transfer credits so there is no loss of academic achievement. And for those in sports meeting regular eligibility criteria, the Michigan High School Athletic Association has said there will be immediate eligibility with the fall season at any school where your student has chosen and is accepted to.

Also, please be assured that there are no changes planned for grades kindergarten through eight at this time.

We are working to help families become aware of opportunities to learn about other schools for your high school student. An **information session/school open house** is scheduled for **6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, June 8**, at the **Ernest T. Ford Recreation Center**, 10 Pitkin St., Highland Park. I sure hope to see you there.

I know that you will have many questions. We will make certain that you have the answers you need to make these important decisions. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 313-957-3000, or please plan on attending the June 8 information session.

Sincerely,

Don Weatherspoon
Highland Park School District Emergency Manager