



Dr. Carmine Peluso
SUPERINTENDENT
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September 12, 2023

Dear Families of Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10,

I am writing to share some news that may affect the future of Dr. Walter Cooper Academy School No. 10. Starting in September 2024, our District will undergo a comprehensive reconfiguration that will align with the new grade structure (PK-6, 7-8, 9-12) approved by the Board of Education last year. Our District has experienced a consistent decline in enrollment for more than a decade and must make the necessary adjustments to create better learning and extracurricular opportunities in modernized facilities with highly qualified staff and programming to meet the diverse interests of our students.

If these changes are not implemented, the District's projections forecast more significant decreases in the years ahead. This comprehensive reconfiguration has been guided by certain criteria, including enrollment declines, school accountability status, building structures and conditions, demographics, program offerings, long-term financial planning, and recommendations from the State Monitor.

At tonight's Board of Education meeting, I submitted the comprehensive school reconfiguration plan, which includes closing School No. 10 at the end of this academic year. In the next few weeks, I will be holding a community conversation with your school prior to the Board vote. If approved, the following changes will be implemented for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Current K-5 students will participate in a special lottery to select a new school in their zone for the 24-25 school year. Current PreK and 6th graders will participate in the traditional school choice process.

I understand these changes may not be easy. While this proposal requires approval from the Board of Education, I believe it is essential to keep you informed before they make their final decision in October. More information on the comprehensive reconfiguration plan can be found [here](#).

I am confident this plan will increase student access to qualified staff in a school with the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carmine Peluso
Superintendent of Schools