



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Closure Proposal: Washington Metropolitan High School

Special Community Meetings

December 9, 2019

December 12, 2019



Goals for Today

- Share context and background on the school and program
- Share the factors and considerations that informed the closure proposal
- Gather feedback on these factors

Agenda

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Background and Context
- ❖ Overview of Proposal
 - Rationale
 - Student Transition Plan and School Options
- ❖ Table Discussions
- ❖ Questions and Answers
- ❖ Closing

Proposal

DCPS is proposing closure of Washington Metropolitan High School at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. This closure is being proposed in service of improving educational opportunities for Washington Metropolitan students.

The proposal includes supporting student transitions into the appropriate DCPS school options (neighborhood middle school, Opportunity Academy, neighborhood high school, out-of-boundary option).

Background and Context

DCPS currently has four Opportunity Academies: Ballou STAY (Ward 8), Luke C. Moore (Ward 5), Roosevelt STAY (Ward 4), and Washington Metropolitan (Ward 1).

- Opportunity Academies offer a personalized competency-based learning program where students who are off-track for graduation or promotion.
- Wash Met opened in SY08-09 under the name Youth Engagement Academy and was located in the Eliot-Hine MS building.
- In SY16-17 the school moved to 300 Bryant St., NW for grades 9-12 and co-located with the CHOICE Academy, which offered programming for 6th-12th grade students during long-term suspensions.
- The CHOICE Academy closed in SY18-19 in response to new requirements in the Student Fair Access to School Act.
- Was Met added grades 8th in SY17-18 and 7th grade in SY19-20.

Background and Context

In SY 16-17 the four DCPS alternative schools (Ballou STAY, Luke C Moore, Roosevelt STAY, Washington Metropolitan) participated in a redesign process through Breakthrough Schools. DCPS made the following investments:

- Students moved to competency-based, personalized model through Summit Personalized Learning; staff received targeted professional development
- Opportunity Academies were provided College Summit (Peer Forward) and Tenacity courses to prepare for college and career
- Students were eligible for paid internships throughout the school year through Career Bridge and had a designated coordinator
- Additional CTE offerings were added based on student feedback
- The Dangers of the Mind SEL program was introduced
- The Opportunity Athletics League was launched through DCIAA

Key Factors and Considerations

Enrollment and Utilization

- The school's enrollment has fluctuated over time, but remains the smallest Opportunity Academy.
- Students primarily live in Ward 8, and they've continuously enrolled additional students from the Ward.
- The school is utilizing 32% of its building. All other Opportunity Academies have higher than 70% utilization rates for their buildings.

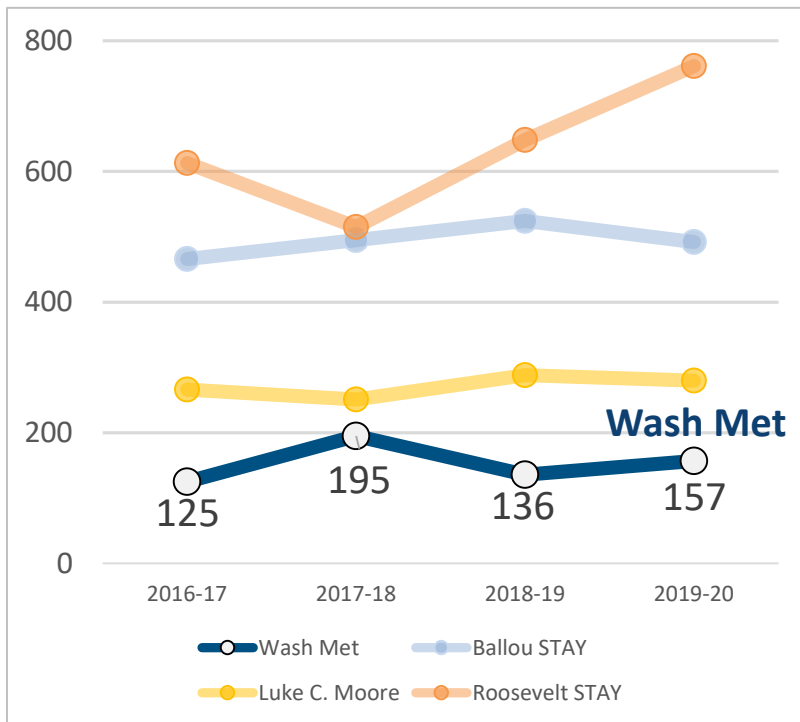
Student Engagement

- Attendance rates are less than 40% - much lower than the attendance rates at other Opportunity Academies.
- School has consistently rated lower than other Opportunity Academies on student satisfaction as shown in our Student Satisfaction Index.

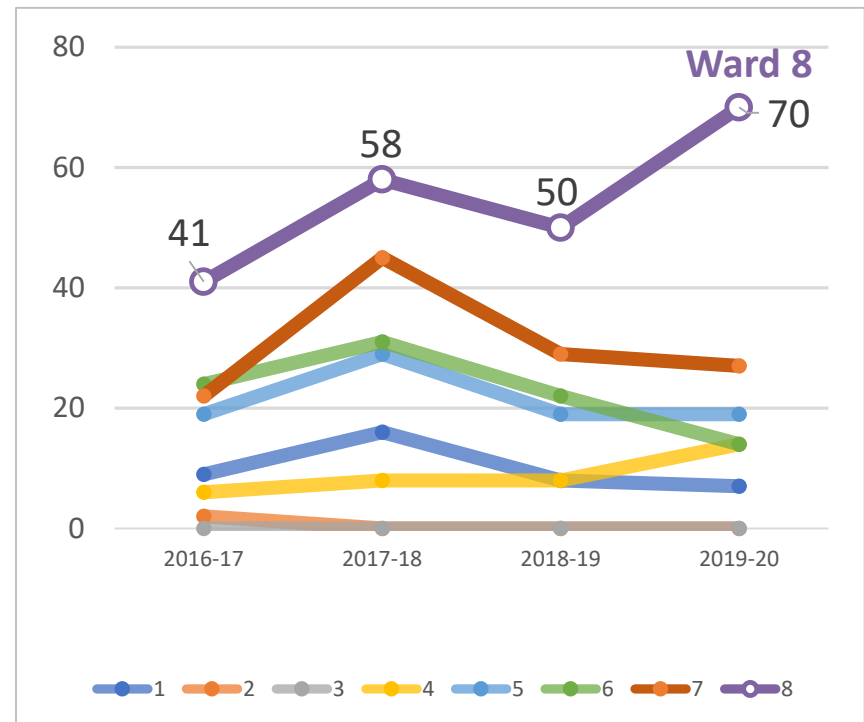
Factors and Considerations: Enrollment

- Compared to all other Opportunity Academies Wash Met has consistently enrolled less than 200 students over the past four school years.
- Wash Met's students primarily live in Ward 8, and they've continuously enrolled additional students from the Ward.

Opportunity Academy Enrollment Since 2016-17



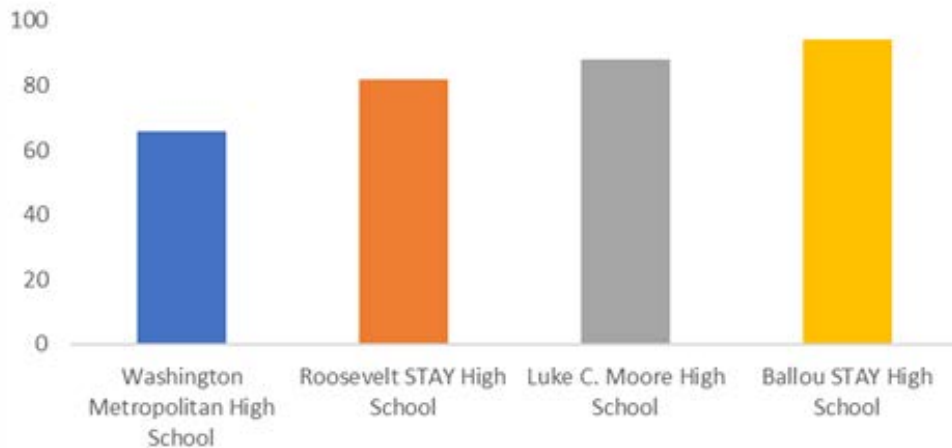
Wash Met Enrollment by Ward Since 2016-17



Factors and Considerations: Student Engagement

- Attendance rates are less than 40% - much lower than the attendance rates at other Opportunity Academies.
- Wash Met is consistently rated lower than other Opportunity Academies on student satisfaction and lower rates of students feel loved, challenged and prepared.

Opportunity Academy
Student Satisfaction Index (2018-19)



	Wash Met	Ballou STAY	Luke C. Moore	Roosevelt STAY
SY16-17	51.6%	58.4%	53.0%	62.1%
SY17-18	28.7%	53.9%	51.2%	43.2%
SY18-19	28.5%	47.0%	49.9%	54.4%
SY19-20	39.1%	50.9%	51.4%	52.5%

Transition Planning and Supports

DCPS is committed to:

- Supporting students through 1:1 placement and transition conversations with students and families.
- Working with receiving schools to ensure necessary connections and resources are in place.
- Working with school staff to ensure that the school is positioned to support students' course completion this year.
- Working with other Opportunity Academy leaders to ensure Wash Met students have access to summer school to finish Summit courses.
- Thinking through and engaging DCPS stakeholders in what our long-term plans are for serving middle school students with significant needs.

What Does Transition Look Like for MIDDLE SCHOOL Students

Scope of Transition

- Currently there are approximately 70 students enrolled in a middle grade, of these 53 are rising 9th graders.
- Many of the middle grade students are overage and could be eligible for high school placement
- We anticipate only needing to transition a subset of students to middle school next school year.

Support for Placement

- Students will work with a placement and enrollment specialists to identify an appropriate placement – neighborhood middle school or enter the lottery for an out-of-boundary school
- The Office of Secondary Schools, Student Supports, and Office of Teaching and Learning will work with school staff to ensure all students will have an individual transition plans.

What Does Transition Look Like for HIGH SCHOOL Students

Scope of Transition

- Currently there are 85 students enrolled in a high school grade.
- To account for graduating students, we anticipate small subset of students will need a high school placement next year.
- Most students came from a DCPS neighborhood school.

Support for Placement

- Students will work with a placement and enrollment specialist to identify an appropriate placement – Opportunity Academy, neighborhood High School or out-of-boundary school.
- The Student Support Team will work with school team to ensure that student maximize this year to accrue the necessary credits for promotion

Possible School Options and Offerings

Opportunity Academy Highlights and Offerings:

Competency-based, self-paced personalized learning

- College Summit – Peer Forward
- Array of CTE offerings including:
 - Barbering
 - Cosmetology
 - Culinary Arts
 - Digital Media
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Mass Media
- Career Bridge Internships
- Athletics through the Opportunity League

Neighborhood High School Highlights and Offerings:

CTE Programming in every neighborhood HS

- JROTC
- World Languages
- Architecture/Design
- Carpentry/Electrical
- HVAC

NAF Career Academy Model. Nearly every comprehensive high school offers at least one Career Academy. The model includes:

- Academy Director with experience in the industry
- Industry-recognized certification
- Work-based learning opportunities
- Academies include: Hospitality and Tourism, Health and Sciences, Mass Media, BioTech, Engineering, and more.

Redesign Efforts at Anacostia and Ballou

Over the past year, we worked with students, staff and families to understand what supports our students need and what academic experiences are aligned to their interests. We are excited to share an update soon on what new programming will be planned for these two schools.

Table Discussions

At your table, please discuss the following questions:

- What is your level of support for this proposal?
 - Which factors and considerations for closure stand out most?
Which do not?
- What supports will students need if the school were to close?
- If the school were to remain open, how could students be better supported?

Please complete and leave your worksheet at the table.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Next Steps

- All meeting materials will be posted on the Strategic School Planning blog: <https://dcpsplanning.wordpress.com/>
- In addition to the feedback sheet, feedback can be shared by calling **(202) 478 – 9289** and leaving a voicemail.
- Timeline & Next Steps:
 - Submit feedback by **Friday, December 20**. Feedback sheets available in the Wash Met main office or available online via the blog.
 - The goal is to make a final decision before the end of January 2020.

THANK YOU!

For questions, please contact Dcps.Planning@k12.dc.gov.