BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Buffalo Public Schools Moves Forward with Proposal to Close 8 Schools in Districtwide Restructuring

Closure Proposal Estimated to Save Nearly $24 Million Each Year

Proposal Improves Yellow Bus Transportation, Strengthen Athletic Offerings & Adds Resources to Classrooms

Watch a Message from Interim Superintendent Dr. Prophet-Bullock HERE

BUFFALO, N.Y. (October 2, 2026) - Buffalo Public Schools Interim Superintendent Dr. Ebony Prophet-Bullock, in keeping with the district's four-year fiscal stability plan, informed the Buffalo Board of Education of plans to submit a school closure proposal for its review and approval.

According to the proposal, starting in the 2027-2028 school year, eight schools will close:

- PS 59 Dr. Charles R. Drew Science
- PS 131 Academy School @ 86
- PS 366 Research Laboratory High School
- PS 33 Bilingual Center
- PS 82 Ronald Peoples School of Scholars
- PS 208 Riverside Academy
- PS 309 East High School
- PS 90 Early Childhood Center

Five of these schools will be repurposed, while PS 59, PS 131, and Research Laboratory High School PS 366 will close permanently.

View Interim Superintendent Dr. Prophet-Bullock's remarks on the closure proposal HERE

The proposal to close schools is the result of three realities: declining enrollment, the rising costs of operating nearly 60 schools, and ensuring schools have the staff they need.

Elementary school students impacted will transfer to other nearby quality elementary schools in the district.

High school students will still be able to enroll in other BPS high schools to prepare them for college, good-paying jobs in the trades, or serving in the armed forces.

Students from PS 33 Bilingual Center can study in both Spanish and English at PS 3 D'Youville Porter Campus School, PS 30 Frank A. Sedita Academy, and PS 76 Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy, while strengthening ties to the rich culture of Buffalo's West Side.

PS 90 Early Childhood Center will be repurposed as a pre-kindergarten special education center.

Research Laboratory High School will merge with Leonardo daVinci High School. Having these two schools relocate to Riverside High School will help build stronger relationships with local colleges.

Students from Riverside High School will have the opportunity to select the school of their choice based on their chosen Career Technical Education pathways and to pursue greater opportunities.

East Community High School will become the home of the Buffalo Rising Academy, allowing students various pathways to get back on track and graduate from high school.

Administrative staff currently spread throughout the district, will now be at either PS 33 or PS 82. In honor of Ronald Peoples, PS 82 will be renamed Ronald Peoples Academic Building.

Based on projections from the district's finance department, 108 FTE positions districtwide will be eliminated under the school closure proposal. The 108 figure includes approximately 73 teaching positions. That could decrease with retirements or current vacancies not filled.

Buffalo Public Schools' restructuring proposal will affect approximately 2,300 students across the district.

Interim Superintendent Bullock and members of her cabinet will be meeting directly with families, staff, community partners, the faith-based community, and elected officials to discuss the proposal and listen to questions and concerns. There will be three public meetings:

- Thursday, October 8 at 2:00 p.m. a virtual meeting
- Thursday, October 15, 5:30 p.m. at the Renovation Church
- Tuesday. October 20, at 5:30 p.m. at PS 156 Frederick Law Olmsted

It is important to stress that this is not a problem unique to the Buffalo Public Schools. School closures are occurring nationally and locally. For instance, in 2023-2024, the Rochester City School District closed 11 schools as part of its restructuring.

For more information about the Buffalo Public Schools visit buffaloschools.org

About the BPS

Buffalo Public Schools is the second-largest school district in New York State and is renowned for its commitment to equity for all and its unique cultural and linguistic diversity. Located in Buffalo, N.Y., the district is comprised of more than 60 schools, 30,000 students, and 100 countries represented. The Buffalo Public Schools provides an integrated and multifaceted educational experience for every student.

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