



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

April 28, 2017

**Re: Partnership Agreement Reached - All PSD Schools Will Remain Open**


Dear City of Pontiac Schools Parents and Community:

In early March, Kelley Williams, Superintendent of the School District of the City of Pontiac (PSD), wrote all of you a letter stating with confidence that Whitman Elementary School and Pontiac High School would not be closing their doors. I now am writing you to confirm that Superintendent Williams was 100 percent accurate and that all PSD schools will remain open.

This announcement today comes on the heels of several weeks of a collaborative effort between PSD, the Oakland Intermediate School District (Oakland Schools), and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The action being taken completely reverses the previous course of action suggested by the School Reform Office's January 20 letter to PSD parents that talked about the closure of Whitman and Elementary and Pontiac High schools. On May 1, PSD, Oakland Schools, and MDE reached a Partnership Agreement that identifies and engages additional resources and support for PSD to ensure it can continue the exemplary progress that has come to pass under Superintendent Williams' leadership and the Pontiac Board of Education over the past four years, which include the following highlights:

- Implementation of a number of 21st Century educational programs, such as blended learning at the high school and middle school; a balanced school calendar; STEM programs; early college enrollment; and Project Excel after-school enrichment initiatives;
- the PSD graduation rate has increased from 55 percent to 72 percent over the past three years;
- the percentile ranks have gone up for every elementary school and Pontiac High School since 2013;
- the PSD composite score on the SAT has increased from 780 in the 2013-14 school year to 817 in the 2015-16 school year; and
- the dropout rate has decreased from 25 percent in the 2012-13 school year to 14 percent in the 2014-15 school year.

I am proud of the work PSD has accomplished, and look forward to continued progress pursuant to the initiatives outlined in the Partnership Agreement, a copy of which may be found on the PSD District website.



Brian J. Whiston,  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

cc: Kelley Williams, Pontiac School District Superintendent  
Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, Oakland Schools Superintendent  
Brenda J. Carter, PSD Board of Education President

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