



William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

440 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

August 6, 2020

Dear School District of Philadelphia Families,

I'm writing to share an update on our school building improvement efforts.

Since the closure of our school buildings in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has accelerated its improvement efforts in its school buildings. We've invested \$264 million in improvements across 61 schools, including:

- 61 capital projects such as roof replacements, boiler replacements/repairs, HVAC and electrical system upgrades, and bathroom renovations
- 147 classroom modernizations across 11 schools supporting our early literacy efforts
- 24 paint and plaster projects, bringing our total number of Certified Lead Safe schools to 110
- ventilation assessments and window repairs
- the removal of over 250,000 feet of asbestos containing material such as floor tiles and pipe insulation

More detailed information for each project is available on the Capital Programs website [here](#). The site will be updated often as projects conclude and new projects are scheduled.

We know there is much more to be done. Starting the new school year with all students engaged in digital learning remotely through the first marking period (through November 17) allows us to further expand our asbestos abatement and remediation efforts in 28 schools. These projects were selected because they can be completed by October 17, allowing the buildings to then be cleaned and readied for in-person learning by November 17, if needed.

We remain committed to our ongoing work of providing the safe and welcoming school buildings our students and staff deserve. In the event that digital learning continues beyond the first marking period, we will continue to accelerate our improvement efforts as funding allows. As a reminder, your voice matters when it comes to advocating for the funding our District so desperately needs. You can visit philasd.org/fundourschools to find resources and learn more about how you can help.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to prepare for a safe and successful school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R. Hite Jr."

William R. Hite Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
The School District of Philadelphia