

November 21, 2019

Dear HS Thompson and JJ Rhoads Community-

We are excited to announce that after careful consideration, Dallas ISD will be moving forward with a plan to increase the capacity of the future HS Thompson Elementary School campus. This decision is part of a larger comprehensive plan of addressing the expressed needs of our students and the greater South Dallas community. Through our conversations with local parents, teachers, administration, and community leaders, we acknowledge the need for extra classroom space as well as providing wraparound services for our families and community.

Once created, the new plan for HS Thompson will create approximately 12 additional classrooms and allow us to serve nearly 650 students. The request for the board to take action to award and enter in a contract for the construction of the new H. S. Thompson was scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup>. In order to make changes to the design of the building, the architect will need additional time to prepare renderings of the classroom additions so that we may submit the new plans for bid and permitting. As such, we have made the decision to remove the Board item and resubmit for approval in the spring so that construction can begin in the summer of 2020. This will move our completion date back six months but still allow us to open at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

We are committed to addressing the needs of the students in the south Dallas community and this decision represents our commitment towards developing a school system instead of a system of individual schools. The larger HS Thompson campus will open up space in surrounding schools, allowing us to propose an Early Childhood Center and bring in community partnerships and resources to serve the entire community. By taking a comprehensive approach, we hope to create a model for other communities and districts to follow, showing how our community can work together in unison to address the needs of our students and create opportunities for success.

We will be scheduling additional meetings in January and February to discuss changes to the building design as well as seeking input to determine which partnerships and resources should be included as part of our comprehensive plan. We look forward to hearing from each of you as we work together to support our students and community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie S. Elizalde  
Chief of Schools  
Dallas ISD