

MICHAEL HINOJOSA, ED.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



December 19, 2019

To Members of the South Dallas Community:

Since November 2018, Dallas ISD and community members have met, discussed and worked together on plans to construct a new H.S. Thompson Elementary School. This letter is a recap of where we are and an update to those plans.

The \$1.6 billion bond program approved by voters in 2015 includes funds to build the new Thompson Elementary and make improvements to Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, and Lincoln HS Collegiate Academy. The Dallas ISD Board of Trustees had planned to vote November 21 to award and enter into a contract to build the new Thompson. But, after conversations with the community about possible attendance boundaries, it became clear that we needed to look more closely at the impact of the new campus on the surrounding South Dallas community.

On December 5, Dallas ISD announced plans to increase the size of the future H.S. Thompson to serve 675 students and to make the new school part of a larger plan to provide wraparound services for our students and the wider South Dallas community. The larger H.S. Thompson may create space in neighboring schools that can house an early childhood center, or other partnerships and resources to serve the entire South Dallas community. *While it may be necessary to change grade configurations at some south Dallas schools to effectively utilize building space, no schools in the South Dallas community will be closed as part of any proposal.*

To give the architect more time to design the new layout for H.S. Thompson, and to provide time for contractor bids, we have moved the Board item approving the project to the spring, so that construction can begin in the summer of 2020. *Although this is a change in the original timeline for construction, H.S. Thompson will still open in August of 2021.*

Through our conversations with local parents, teachers, principals, and community leaders, we acknowledge and embrace the need to reimagine, redesign, and repurpose space for our students to learn and to provide wraparound services for our families and community. As the district moves forward with these plans, the community will be invited to additional meetings to give input on the building design and the selection of partnerships and resources. We look forward to hearing from residents across the community as we work together to support our students and families.

Please visit our website ([www.dallasisd.org/southdallas](http://www.dallasisd.org/southdallas)) to leave feedback and sign up to be notified of future community meetings and information about this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie S. Elizalde". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Stephanie S. Elizalde  
Chief of Schools