

Dear DPS Community,

As we have been communicating with you, DPS has been working extraordinarily hard and in partnership with superintendents across the state to press our state government to restore education funding to our schools and ensure our students and our educators receive the supports and compensation they deserve.

In Colorado, the state funds education at an average of \$2,500 per student less than the national average. That is short-sighted and wrong. Our state needs to dramatically increase our investment in education, and all of our voices play a vital role in this effort.

The statewide teachers association, the Colorado Education Association, is planning a statewide rally of educators on Friday, April 27, to advocate for greater state funding and expects that many of our teachers will participate. As such, we've been working with our teachers on a plan that will have as minimal impact as possible on our students and families.

Given the number of teachers expected to participate in CEA's event that afternoon, **we have decided to schedule an early release day for all district-managed schools on Friday, April 27.** Innovation schools can opt out of the early release schedule and decide to operate on a normal schedule. We felt it was important to get a decision on this as early as possible so schools and families can plan ahead.

The planned early release will not impact student meals. We are committed to feeding every child, every day, so bagged lunches will be available for every student on April 27.

Also, the planned early release day will not impact the 34th Annual Shakespeare Festival. The festival will follow its regular schedule. Transportation will be provided to students who go back to school after the celebration.

We are working with Transportation Services to provide accurate information about transportation for Friday, April 27. We will share this information as soon as it's available.

Please look for a detailed communication from your student's school leader soon sharing more information about your school's specific schedule, transportation and afterschool activities.

As in every case, our students' safety is our top priority, and we will make necessary revisions to these plans to prioritize their well-being. Thank you for your support of our educators and your partnership in our students' education.

*Best,
Tom*

Tom Boasberg, DPS Superintendent