REVIEW OF DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS DURING STATE MANAGEMENT
Statement from the Board

The Detroit Public Schools Community District School is turning the corner. We are showing steady improvement academically, enrollment has increased for the first time in a decade, chronic absenteeism has improved, state testing shows above average proficiency improvement, teacher vacancies have declined, and programming has expanded across schools. In addition, the District has maintained a balanced budget, created a 3 percent reserve, and dramatically reduced audit findings.

Today, the Board of Education released a report succinctly detailing the substantial impact Emergency Management had on the District. It comes as no surprise that under state management the District suffered academically, fiscally, lost enrollment, and witnessed the disinvesment of personnel development.

While the District under local control has proven to improve outcomes for children, the legacy of Emergency Management coupled with the continuing effect of inequitable school funding, will inevitably cause the District to hit a ceiling and impede its current progress toward a complete turnaround of traditional public education in Detroit.

The most immediate and ever-present example of the negative impact of Emergency Management on students and employees is in the status of the District’s facilities. As further detailed in the Report, due to the failure of Emergency Managers to take appropriate action to maintain and address needed facilities maintenance and investment throughout the District, it does not have 1) adequate funds to maintain its facilities at industry standards, or 2) the ability to raise secure capital to address these concerns. This is unacceptable and perpetuates unequal opportunities for Detroit's children.

The District has scheduled community engagement conversations to re-engage Detroiter on this history and bring greater awareness to the inequity of school funding and the substantial capital needed for quality standard facilities. For more information and meeting times please visit detroitk12.org/facilities.