



**Burns Elementary Middle School**  
**14350 Terry Street Detroit, Michigan 48227 Ph. 313 852-0534**  
**Cynthia Clayton, Principal      Stacey Daniels, Assistant Principal**  
**#BandedTogether**



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January 13, 2021

Dear MACUL Innovative District Award Committee:

I would like to support Detroit Public School Community District's (DPSCD) application as an Innovative District for the MACUL Innovative District Award.

In addition to being an Attendance Agent at Burns Elementary, I am the father of three DPSCD students. I've seen the impact of Connected Futures and the Technology and Family Resources Hubs from both sides, so I believe I bring a unique perspective.

When the pandemic first hit, I was one of the Detroit households that already had a computer – but it was one computer for my three kids. Needless to say, that doesn't really work out when all of my kids need to be online at the same time. That's why Connected Futures was so important for me. Through Connected Futures, I was able to get one device for each of my children, so they can all be online at the same time while I'm working. I know many Burns families feel the same way.

I also work as Burns' attendance agent, and despite having a strong community culture, we still struggled with attendance at the start of the new school year. The first month of the shift to online learning was challenging. Many district families and parents aren't proficient in technology, but that's why it was great to see the new Technology and Family Resources Hubs come together. Whenever I call families whose children have been absent, now I have a place to direct them. Trouble logging in? Visit one of the hubs. Trouble with your power? Visit one of the hubs. Our hubs have become a one-stop shop for families, and I've noticed the positive impact they've had on Burns' student attendance.

I myself have visited the hubs to get support for my children's devices. Since I am a working parent, I was grateful to have the additional support to alleviate stress off of me. I am proud to be an employee and a parent at a district and with a school that I know cares about our students and families. When students rise, we all rise.

Sincerely,

*Andre Henry*

Andre Henry (Jan 13, 2021 12:35 EST)

Andre Henry  
Attendance Agent

Burns Elementary-Middle School  
Detroit Public Schools Community District