



City School District of Albany
PHILIP J. SCHUYLER ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY
Kendra Chaires-Francis, Principal

March 11, 2019

Dear Families:

I am writing to urge you to come to an important meeting at our school **Monday, March 18** to learn more about middle-school enrollment options for next school year. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

The City School District of Albany Board of Education is considering options that would reduce enrollment at Edmund J. O'Neal Middle School of Excellence in 2019-20 and for the next several years. We have learned in the 18 months that O'Neal has been in operation that the building cannot serve the temporary enrollment pattern the district put in place when it opened O'Neal. The board is looking at temporary options to reduce O'Neal's enrollment while continuing to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all of our students.

Here are the options the board is considering. We will discuss these options March 18:

- Students currently in grade 5 at Arbor Hill Elementary School and North Albany Academy would stay at their elementary schools for sixth grade. Students from Philip J. Schuyler Achievement Academy and Sheridan Preparatory Academy would continue to enroll at O'Neal beginning in sixth grade.
- Schuyler students and all others students scheduled to attend sixth grade at O'Neal in 2019-20 would shift to North Albany Academy for sixth grade.
- Students currently in grade 5 at Schuyler and North Albany would attend sixth grade at North Albany. Students currently in grade 5 at Sheridan Prep and Arbor Hill would continue to attend sixth grade at O'Neal.

In addition to reducing the overall enrollment at O'Neal, the board also is considering these options to address the district's budget deficit for 2019-20, and declining enrollment at district elementary schools on the north side of the city. You can visit www.albanyschools.org for more information.

Please attend the March 18 meeting. The board is very interested in hearing from you as it looks to finalize a decision in the coming weeks. The board's next full discussion of these options will be at its March 21 meeting at North Albany Academy. Please plan to join us for that meeting as well.

Sincerely,

Kendra Chaires-Francis
Principal