



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

January 20, 2012

Resident of the Highland Park School District

Dear Parent,

As a parent of a Highland Park School District (HPS) student, you are probably aware of the dire financial situation that exists in HPS. Over the past few weeks, together with the Departments of Treasury and Education and a review team, we have been attempting to work with your local school officials to address this situation.

There is absolutely no question that the finances of HPS have reached a crisis stage. During the 2010-11 school year, HPS was \$3 million over budget. Again this year, HPS has failed to make its budget. On January 13, the district was unable to meet its payroll for teachers and staff. In order to keep the schools open, the state forwarded an emergency advance totaling \$188,000.

Recognizing the crisis, I authorized an independent financial review team to examine the district's finances. Since the release of the findings of this review team, projections show that HPS is in jeopardy of closing next month without immediate action.

Unfortunately, the district has appealed these findings and delayed efforts of the state to help fix these financial problems. We are not confident that the district can finish the school year without further state intervention and additional assistance. I am concerned about the welfare of the students at HPS and their educational opportunities. I am not willing to take a chance with your children. They are our number one priority.

One of Michigan's most pressing responsibilities is ensuring that students have every opportunity to learn and succeed and I am committed to doing just that.

Students in HPS need to know their community is behind them, that the state is committed to actively helping them learn, and parents can be excited about their future.

Please contact my office with any questions directly at 517-335-7858. I welcome and desire your involvement and feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Snyder".

Rick Snyder
Governor