Coming in 2027-28: New options for in-demand programs

Dear Tulsa Public Schools Families and Staff,

Earlier this evening, I unveiled a bold plan to significantly increase access to in-demand programs across our district. I want you to know about it.

As I shared with our Board of Education, this plan continues to align Tulsa Public Schools' programs and buildings with our current enrollment reality by responding to family demand and rapidly moving students off of waitlists and into classrooms. Tonight, we launched a new effort to expand 1,200 new seats in some of our most sought-after programs: elementary immersion and dual language, secondary virtual instruction and magnet programs, and career tech instruction.

We believe growing enrollment where – and how – families want it is the best way to serve young people. I am committed to guiding TPS into the future with a path that answers the call from students and families by offering more options and increased access to in-demand offerings.

Beginning with the 2027-28 school year, we plan to:

Expand programs families want and move students off of waitlists

- We will add more seats by being responsive to demand and maximizing use of our buildings. Next year, we will add more open slots for immersion and dual language students in the early grades at **Zarrow International School** (at least 65 more seats) and **Felicitas Mendez International School** (at least 220 more seats).
- There are more than 300 Tulsa Public Schools high school students who are on the waitlist for Tulsa Tech. With the new first-in-the-state public **polytechnic high school at Central**, hundreds more students can access free career certifications as they complete their academic journey.

Respond to what families and students want most

- We will **expand our online programs** serving students in grades 6-12 by 1,100 seats, moving students off of the waitlist and opening more seats for new enrollment. With a new home at the Central virtual and career learning complex, virtual students can get the best of both worlds with in-person support, a cafeteria, student lounge, health and wellness services, library, college and career counseling, and more.
- TPS will also launch a new hybrid program for qualifying students who have highly specialized pursuits outside of school, such as elite athletes, performing artists, and other professional tracks, or prefer a rigorous online learning model with 35 new seats for students who meet the magnet criteria at both **Booker T. Washington High School** (grades 9 and 10) and **Edison Preparatory High School** (grades 9 and 10). These students will have access to their school community activities and will earn a diploma from their high school while maintaining flexibility and individual

pursuits that a high quality virtual program enables.

These steps are just the beginning of redefining what it means to be a school district that serves the unique needs of every learner. We have heard what students and families want, and we are responding.

Remember: **enrollment begins in January** for all programs across the district. Mark your calendars and begin reviewing your options now! Thank you for continued support of our students and families.

Warmly,
Dr. Ebony Johnson
Superintendent
Tulsa Public Schools