

GARFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

34 OUTWATER LANE, GARFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07026-2693

DR. GIOVANNI CUSMANO
Acting Superintendent of Schools

973-340-5000 Ext 2306
FAX 973-340-4620 WWW.GBOE.ORG

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Dear Parent/ Guardian of Woodrow Wilson School #5 Students,

The New Jersey School Development Authority (SDA) has identified overcrowding in the Garfield School district to be a priority and has proposed construction of two new elementary schools on existing district-owned sites. The first site is the property where School #5 currently stands. A new K-5 elementary school with a capacity to educate 750 students is planned to open on this site in September 2026.

The SDA has indicated that it is in the best interest of our students and staff to close School #5 at the end of this school year. The benefits of closing the school prior to the start of construction include: prioritizing the health and safety of students and staff by keeping them away from an active construction site; the elimination of any negative impact on learning as a result of students being taught in close proximity to an active construction site for two to three years; acquiring the best possible design for the new school on the existing site; and an earlier completion date for the new school since demolition of the existing building will occur sooner. Therefore, it is planned that School #5 will close at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

While the prospect of a new state-of-the-art school is exciting for the future, we understand that the closing of Woodrow Wilson School #5 represents great change for our students and families. We seek to make the transition to other schools as seamless as possible. Teachers and counselors will help to prepare our students for the change with classroom discussions and responding to any questions and concerns that our students and parents may present.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support as we work through this process. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Dr. Giovanni Cusmano

Acting Superintendent of Schools
Business Administrator
Board Secretary