

August 17, 2023

Dear Partners,

We write today as long-standing funders, tribal governments and committed community members about an issue that directly impacts the lives of thousands of students and families and the health of our city and economy: the future of Tulsa Public Schools.

As many of you know, TPS is the largest school district in Oklahoma, serving 34,000 students and their families and employing more than 5,500 educators and staff. On August 24th, the State Board of Education will meet to discuss the accreditation of TPS and may take action that would amount to a state takeover of the district.

Any such action would bypass the democratic process and undermine the authority of the TPS Board of Education, which has been entrusted by Tulsa voters with the responsibility to make decisions about what is best for the district. Any form of a state takeover of TPS would devastate student learning, create chaos and uncertainty for teachers and families, negatively impact businesses that rely on schools to prepare TPS kids for work and life, hinder our region's efforts to attract and retain businesses, and depreciate home values.

We believe this issue impacts all who care about the future of our city—including those of us who directly support K-12 education, as well as anyone who works on other issues whether it is youth programming, higher education, housing stability, food security, social services, healthcare and mental health services and much more. **We ask that you consider showing your support for Tulsa Public Schools in ways that feel aligned with your mission and values.** This could include:

1. **Educating yourself:** The TPS Board of Education approved a strategic plan for 2022-2027. The district has identified goals and strategies and is regularly tracking progress. Learn more on the [TPS website](#);
2. **Signing the petition:** Go to [ProtectTPS.com](#), subscribe, share and sign the petition, and ask your board members, employees, family and friends to do the same;
3. **Making your voice heard:** Contact your local elected officials, state representatives, and especially the [Governor's Office](#) and [members of the State Board of Education](#) to express your support for the district;
4. **Showing up in support:** Attend the next TPS board meeting on Monday, August 21st or the State Board of Education meeting on August 24th to express your support for the district. Consider showing your support with a [TPS t-shirt](#);
5. **Getting engaged with TPS schools:** There are many ways you can volunteer in schools and directly support teachers. Reach out to the Foundation for Tulsa Schools to learn about Partners in Education and other opportunities to help our schools and students.

The success of Tulsa Public Schools is critically important for the futures of thousands of kids and families, for the collective work we do and for the Tulsa we hope to share with future generations. Thank you for all you do to make Tulsa better and for considering taking action during this critical moment.

Signed,

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies

Lobeck Taylor Family Foundation

Cherokee Nation

Muscogee Creek Nation

Coretz Family Foundation

Sanford & Irene Burnstein Family Foundation

Ed Darby Foundation

T.D. Williamson

Flint Family Foundation

The Sharna and Irvin Frank Foundation

Hille Foundation

Media Contact: Anqie.Ngo@berlinrosen.com