



November 28, 2017

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

RE: Webster Update/Report

Daniel Webster Secondary School began the 2017-2018 school year as a six/twelve school with an enrollment of 251. Through August 2017 Board action, it was determined that Webster would change to a traditional middle school servicing students in grades six through eight. On September 1, 2017, the attendance rate, which included high school, was 84.7%. There were five students who had been suspended at that time. On September 5, 2017, the enrollment for Daniel Webster was 86 students in grades six through eight. Currently, there are 124 students enrolled. The current attendance rate is 86.4% and the number of students who have been suspended has increased by two students.

The projected enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is currently close to 300. The school has a number of activities planned for reaching out to the new students who have been enrolled for the upcoming year. A welcome letter has been prepared and sent out by the principal of Webster to all incoming students in order to make a positive first contact with new families. The school is offering a student shadowing day, family night, and opportunities for families to meet the staff. The school principal will facilitate a prospective family mixer with families who plan to enroll their child(ren) in sixth grade at Webster, in order to build a sense of community with those families and get their views on their desires for the school.

The Department of Student Services is exploring ways to increase enrollment for Webster for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. We are working with the following schools to promote interest in Webster with the intent of establishing potential feeder schools for Webster: Barton, Bruce, Bryant, Engleburg, Goodrich, Hawthorne, Kluge, Maple Tree,

Parkview, Pratt and Stuart. Families from these schools who did not take advantage of the early admissions process are being assigned to Webster for the 2018-2019 school year. The Department of Student Services has been seeing an interest in north side middle school seats from parents, and has been assisting families through the enrollment process and suggesting Webster as a great choice.

In December, the Research and Evaluation team will be conducting focus groups and interviews with students and staff at Webster to engage stakeholder voices around their hopes and desires for the future of the school. A report of the findings from discussions with all stakeholders will be completed by the end of January 2018.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darienne B. Driver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darienne B. Driver, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools