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Superintendent

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Dear JPS Community,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits as we begin the 2023-2024 academic year. I am writing to you today with a great sense of pride and accomplishment as we reflect on our remarkable journey of academic achievements and the strides we have made as one cohesive team. Our commitment to excellence and a growth mindset has propelled us forward, and I am thrilled to share our specific gains and accomplishments.

Our dedication to fostering academic excellence has yielded impressive results, evident in our recent accomplishments in Science and Math proficiency. Our Science proficiency has surged to an exceptional 43.8%, marking an impressive 11% increase from the prior year. This remarkable achievement extends a two-year trend of improvement, which has seen a cumulative increase of 25%.

Equally remarkable is our performance in Math, where our proficiency has risen to 30.8%, signifying a commendable 9% gain from the previous year. This achievement mirrors a consistent two-year trend of improvement, showcasing an overall rise of 22%. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each scholar and teacher who has tirelessly dedicated themselves to these accomplishments.

This journey of growth has been guided by our core values of Excellence and Growth Mindset. These values have been the driving force behind our continuous improvement, encouraging us to push boundaries and achieve beyond expectations. These accomplishments are all the more remarkable given the challenges that we experienced last year including power, water, and trash disposal disruptions, facilities challenges causing temporary relocations, and naysayers who believed that our growth last year was merely a fluke attributable to COVID growth. Again, we prove the naysayers wrong! As JTECHS scholar and Convocation keynote speaker Charles Williams reminded us of the character of our District: "We are resilient, resistant, and resolute."

In line with our commitment to growth, I am thrilled to report that we have successfully narrowed the performance gap, and we are well on our way to meeting the ELA and math goals outlined in our 5-year strategic plan. I am delighted to announce that we have surpassed our proficiency goal in Algebra I, moving from 10.7% proficient four years ago to 40.5% proficient today, a testament to our unrelenting pursuit of excellence.

JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Our commitment to relationships and the growth of every individual has been unwavering. The support provided through our professional development and coaching has been instrumental in shaping the success we celebrate today. It fills me with immense pride to share that in all MAAP assessed areas, our scholars have demonstrated increased proficiency for the past two years, underscoring the transformative impact of our collective efforts.

I would also like to address a recent development regarding test security. On August 14th, we were notified by the Mississippi Department of Education about this matter, and I want to assure you that we have taken immediate and decisive action. A dedicated team has been activated to conduct a comprehensive investigation, adhering to state standards. In the interest of transparency and accountability, school leaders involved have been placed on administrative leave with pay to facilitate the investigation of school sites.

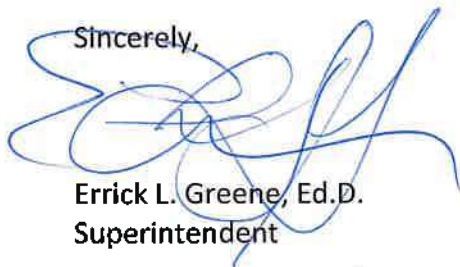
While this situation demands our utmost seriousness and expediency, it is important to clarify that these irregularities are not indicative of a districtwide issue. We firmly believe in the integrity of our work, the capabilities of our scholars, and the dedication of our educators. We are fully committed to following the investigation to its conclusion and taking appropriate actions, including termination and reporting, if any inappropriate behavior is uncovered.

I want to extend an invitation to all stakeholders to scrutinize our practices. We welcome transparency and believe that it is through rigorous examination that our gains can truly be celebrated and trusted. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the achievements we have accomplished are built on a foundation of integrity and authenticity.

As we move forward, I am confident that our team will continue to achieve accelerated gains, and I am deeply grateful to each and every member for their unwavering dedication. Let us continue to stand together, united by our values and driven by our shared commitment to excellence.

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our scholars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. L. Greene', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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