



March 11, 2011

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For Immediate Release



### **DPS master facility plan nears completion**

*District announces school closure, consolidations for 2011-2012 school year*

As Dayton Public Schools nears completion of its school construction program, the district will continue to close and consolidate older buildings that remain in its inventory but which are not scheduled to be rebuilt in the master facilities plan.

District officials announced today that two buildings will close at the end of this school year: Patterson-Kennedy PreK-8 School, 258 Wyoming St., and Gorman School, 156 Grant St. DPS also will restructure its preschool programs and will no longer offer Head Start.

- Current sixth- and seventh-grade students at Patterson-Kennedy will attend the new seventh- and eighth-grade unit at Belmont High School next year. Students classified as ESL (English as a Second Language) will move to River's Edge Montessori. The remaining Patterson-Kennedy students will receive school assignments based on selection and availability.
- At Gorman, some 30 medically fragile students – along with four preschool units that operate in the building – will relocate to the DPS Preschool Academy building on Abbey Avenue. The school will become Gorman School at Jackson.
- At the Preschool Academy, current Title I ECE (Early Childhood Education) students will move on to kindergarten. Students in the ECIP (Early Childhood Inclusion Preschool) program will attend preschool or kindergarten in another DPS school, based on selection and availability.
- Students currently enrolled in a Head Start program will move on to kindergarten, apply for another district preschool program, or enroll in a Head Start program offered through the Miami Valley Child Development Center.

The district has notified and met with staff and parents whose schools or programs are affected, and has placed an administrator at Patterson-Kennedy for several weeks to assist parents with selecting another district school for their students.

“We realize this is an emotional process for close-knit schools,” DPS Superintendent Lori L. Ward said. “As we work to reshape the district, increase our academic performance and maximize our operational efficiencies, we are closing and consolidating several of the buildings that aren’t part of our new school construction program. We want to help the staff and students of these buildings make a seamless transition to their new schools.”

Dayton Public Schools is nearing completion of its multi-year facilities master plan, which includes the construction of 26 new buildings. The final four new schools are scheduled to open in the 2011-2012 school year.