



# VENTURE PREP

YOUR FUTURE. PERSONALIZED.

March 20, 2018

Dear Families and Students of Venture Prep High School:

We are writing you today to share the most difficult news imaginable. With deep regret and sadness, the Venture Prep High School Board of Directors, in consultation with Denver Public Schools, has decided it must close permanently at the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

The Board made this difficult decision after learning that our enrollment projections for next year are lower than expected. Simply put: We can no longer afford to offer the high-quality education and support that our students have come to rely upon and deserve.

In many ways, we feel as if this decision was made FOR us before it had to be made BY us: Despite our best efforts to fundraise, advertise, and recruit, we fell short of attracting enough new students and families. At this moment in Denver, there are fewer students and more school options than is actually sustainable, and our small program is the first casualty in what will almost certainly be more to come over the next five years.

To be clear, this decision was driven by financial considerations -- not the quality of your child's education. Venture Prep's academic program is stronger than ever. We are incredibly proud of the education we provide and the outcomes we have achieved: we raised our graduation rate from 86% to 93% in just one year. We are in the top third of Denver high schools for academic growth on state tests. Our seniors have been accepted to four-year colleges at a higher rate and have earned \$1.3 million in scholarships (so far!).

We are so sorry to not be able to build on these academic strengths and continue to serve the students who most need our personalized, rigorous, relationship-based approach to learning.

The Board of Directors, with the support of Principal Erin Quigley and Denver Public Schools, decided to announce this decision within two days of making it so that families and staff would have adequate time and support to plan for next year. **We will offer a school-choice/enrollment-support meeting at Venture Prep the week of April 9-13 to discuss school options, credit transfer, and records.** The Denver Public Schools Office of Choice and Enrollment is already working to ensure that Venture Prep students are given as much priority as possible in securing seats at the District high schools they prefer. We will also directly support our teachers and staff as they search for new positions. All staff will continue to receive full salaries and benefits through the end of their contracts.

This news does not end our shared mission of equipping your child with the tools for lifelong success. In fact, we will take our mission more seriously than ever before. In our short time left together, we will focus on making sure every student receives the academic, social, and emotional support they need to not only successfully transition to a new learning environment but also young adulthood.

Please join us in keeping the students, teachers, staff, and families of the school community in your thoughts. We ask that in the coming weeks, we treat one another and the entire school community with respect and compassion. As a diverse school community, we express our feelings in diverse ways. Some of us will feel loss, anger, or frustration. Some of us may not know what we are feeling or how best to share those feelings. Know that we are here to share the burden of this transition in all the forms it may take.

If you would like to talk or have your questions answered, please reach out to set up an appointment. We are available to connect with you during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Bixby", written over a horizontal line.

Drew Bixby, President  
on behalf of the Venture Prep Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Quigley", written over a horizontal line.

Erin Quigley, Principal

