

Erie County Legislature

HON. TAISHA ST. JEAN TARD
2ND DISTRICT LEGISLATOR



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Re: Proposed Closure of Buffalo Public Schools #3 D'Youville Porter Campus School

Dear Superintendent Dr. Pascal Mubenga, and Members of the Buffalo Board of Education,

As the Erie County Legislator representing District 2, I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed closure of Buffalo Public Schools #3, the D'Youville Porter Campus School, as recommended by the Buffalo Public Schools Closure Committee. I urge you not to accept this recommendation.

BPS #3 is not simply a facility; it is a critical bilingual program serving nearly 500 students and one of only seven English-Spanish bilingual schools in the entire school district. For decades, it has supported multilingual learners by integrating language development, academic instruction, and cultural identity, an approach that is essential to educational equity on Buffalo's West Side.

The school's location further elevates its importance. BPS #3 is situated just several hundred feet from the future Hispanic Heritage Cultural Institute, scheduled to open in the summer of 2026. This presents a unique and timely opportunity for collaboration between Buffalo Public Schools and community partners to strengthen bilingual education, expand cultural learning, and enhance student outcomes. Accepting the Closure Committee's recommendation would forfeit this opportunity and weaken long-term investments in this neighborhood.

While I recognize the challenges in recent New York State assessment data, closing a bilingual community school is not a solution. Students do not improve simply by being relocated. What drives progress are targeted resources, culturally responsive instruction, and sustained institutional commitment.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the Superintendent and the Buffalo Board of Education to reject the recommendation of the Buffalo Public Schools Closure Committee regarding D'Youville Porter Campus School #3. Instead, I ask that you work collaboratively with families, educators, and community partners to identify solutions that preserve and strengthen this school while addressing the academic needs of its students.

Respectfully,

Legislator Taisha St. Jean Tard
Erie County Legislature, District 2