



Phyllis A. Edwards, Ed.D.
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Vision

City Schools of Decatur
will become one of
the top ten community
school districts in
the nation.

August 10, 2010

Dear College Heights Parents:

I want to inform you that late last week we were told by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) that our accreditation with them is in danger of being revoked. As is our practice in the City Schools of Decatur, we want to be open and forthright with any information regarding our programs or schools.

Our zero to three year old, after school care and summer programs (at ECLC) have been the responsibility of our YMCA of Decatur partners. There have been some actions by the YMCA staff (particularly involving supervision of students) that has put our accreditation at risk. Indeed staff changes were made and a variety of practices and trainings were in place, however, I believe that it is no longer in the best interest of our families for this partnership to continue. We will mutually end our partnership as of December 31, 2010.

I want to reassure you that your College Heights student is our highest priority. It is our intention to provide continuity in your child's teacher and program and we anticipate no change in service at the Early Childhood Learning Center

We have done a great deal of work in training; curriculum development and provision of appropriate materials and play areas to ensure that this program is of the highest quality. The City Schools of Decatur is already working on plans to find another partner to operate these programs or make the determination that it is feasible for CSD to operate the 0-3 program. We are committed to the 0-3 program at College Heights.

Please know that we are not required to have NAEYC Accreditation in order to operate ECLC. We have taken this extra voluntary step to meet the highest possible standard for our students. We are prepared to appeal any negative decision by NAEYC or take the necessary steps to be accredited.

Mrs. Kennedy and I have been in communication with CSD board members, Mr. Bill McCoy of the YMCA, the ECLC Advisory Council, CSD teachers and staff, and the YMCA teachers and staff. We will keep you informed as we move through this process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phyllis A. Edwards, Ed.D.
Superintendent