



Dear CMSD family,

In the spirit of transparency, we are sharing this important information regarding school staffing for 2026-27.

Joint Statement from CMSD CEO Dr. Warren Morgan and Cleveland Teachers Union President Shari Obrenski

Over the last few months, CMSD and the CTU have sat across the table to work through one of the most difficult challenges our district has faced in recent memory. That work has not been easy, but it has been grounded in a shared commitment to Cleveland's students, our staff, and the long-term health of our schools.

CMSD views its current financial and enrollment realities to require meaningful changes to how our district is structured and staffed. The CTU and CMSD agree that reductions of teaching staff should be a last resort. However, with 29 fewer CMSD schools operating next year, the District has confirmed to the CTU that there will be some layoff notifications issued to CTU members occurring no later than Tuesday, April 14. During this same period, the District will be issuing and announcing significant administrative reductions, including among CMSD Central Office staff.

While CTU continues to believe that laying off teaching staff is not necessary at this time, both District leadership and the CTU are committed to working together to identify paths to minimize the number of CTU staff impacted and ensure that those who are impacted by layoffs receive the best possible care and support through this process. Through the collaboration that has occurred so far, the number of teachers the District expects to lay off has already been reduced, and the parties are continuing to review further opportunities to reduce the impact before staff notifications are finalized.

Impacted staff will receive verbal notice from their school leaders accompanied by notification letters along with information on the transition support and available supporting resources. We are committed to ensuring that no one navigates this transition alone. Our goal is to help every impacted employee find a path forward, whether that is within CMSD, across the region, or beyond. The staffing process will also begin on April 15, 2026, with further timeline details to be announced soon.

We understand that this news will cause anxiety for staff members, their families, and our broader school community.

These are complicated times that require difficult choices and empathy. While CMSD does not have all the answers at this moment, this announcement is made in the spirit of transparency. CMSD and the CTU are committed to honoring our bargained commitments and doing our best to take care of our valued staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Warren Morgan
Chief Executive Officer, CMSD

Shari Obrenski
President, CTU