



Carthage Civic League
P.O. Box 16093, Cincinnati, Ohio 45216

Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education
2651 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Dear Members of the Cincinnati Public Schools Board of Education,

The Carthage Civic League, representing the interests and concerns of our community, including families with children enrolled in Rising Stars at Carthage, strongly opposes the proposed plan to relocate preschool students from Rising Stars at Carthage to Bond Hill Academy. This proposal was brought to our attention only recently, and we are deeply concerned by the lack of prior communication and collaboration with our neighborhood council regarding this significant change.

The topic was presented to our community by a Carthage LSDMC representative at the Civic League public meeting on November 18, 2024. After discussion, the community voted unanimously to draft this letter of opposition to the plan. [{Meeting minutes}](#)

Our objections are rooted in feedback gathered from community members, families, and educators, as well as a careful evaluation of the potential impact on our neighborhood. Specifically, we highlight the following concerns:

Transportation Barriers for Preschool Families:

Preschoolers in the Cincinnati Public School system are not provided bus transportation. Many families at Rising Stars at Carthage rely on walking a few short blocks to the school, as it is within the neighborhood. The relocation to Bond Hill Academy would force families to navigate complex public transit routes, including a combination of lengthy bus rides and walking which can total 45 minutes or more each way. For families already facing economic challenges, these changes would impose undue financial and logistical burdens, making preschool less accessible.

Impact on Immigrant and English Learner Families:

Carthage's demographics include a significant Hispanic/Latino population (35.2%), along with a growing African immigrant community in the Williamsburg Apartments. Many of these families are newcomers to the U.S., unfamiliar with the educational system, and in need of localized support. The move would disrupt this critical support network, undermining efforts to

provide a strong foundation for their children's education.

Decline in Preschool Enrollment:

Preschool is not mandatory in Ohio, and adding transportation hurdles may discourage families from enrolling their children. This is particularly concerning as early childhood education is critical for developing English language skills and laying the groundwork for future academic success.

Community Stability and Inclusivity:

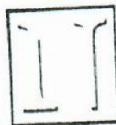
Rising Stars at Carthage is a vital part of our neighborhood's identity and accessibility. The proposed changes undermine this by fragmenting services and displacing students to an area that does not reflect the cultural and demographic diversity of Carthage. For context, Rising Stars at Carthage is 46% Hispanic/Latino, whereas Bond Hill Academy is only 3.7%. This shift fails to account for the unique needs and cultural characteristics of our community.

We strongly urge the Board to reconsider this plan and engage in a transparent, collaborative dialogue with the Carthage Civic League and other stakeholders. Our community is willing to work with CPS to develop solutions that prioritize equity, accessibility, and the well-being of our students and families.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

The Carthage Civic League

President
Carthage Civic League *12/03/2024*



NAVA LAW LLC
Joseph Nava, Attorney At Law
11566 Lebanon Rd Suite 200
Sharonville, Ohio 45241
513-769-8400