

by families.

Johnson also argued that the district has been expanding choices in higher-performing schools and improving underperforming schools in the communities at issue.

“We would be doing a great disservice to continue to serve young people in these schools when we have better options available,” said Johnson, adding that she is looking forward to working with the investigation. “Frankly, it would be more appropriate for us to be questioned of wrongdoing had we chosen to maintain the status quo.”

Johnson’s plan could save \$10 million in the next school year and reduce by a quarter the thousands of empty classroom seats scattered across the city.

“We are not suggesting that the district continue to blindly pour money into schools that have been identified as failing,” said Rahsaan Hall, a staff attorney for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights. “However, we are concerned that the burden of making these improvements overwhelmingly falls on the backs of black and brown children in the city.” Continued...

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