



October 4, 2023

Dear Homewood Early Learning Center Families,

Thanks so much to all of the families who participated in our first meeting on Friday about the future location and design of the Johns Hopkins Early Learning Center. We very much appreciate all of your feedback during and since that meeting, and we want to emphasize even more clearly that we are continuing to actively explore site options. No site has been selected, and we welcome and need the input of the parent community and other stakeholders to help us make this decision.

We also want to say again how important the ELC is to all of us. Johns Hopkins is unwavering in our commitment to providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable child care as a core institutional priority and a critical part of our efforts to recruit, welcome, and retain great faculty, staff, and students. Our child care centers, child care voucher program, backup child care benefit, parental leave, and premium Care.com membership offerings all exist to support the needs of our community, and we see the new ELC as an opportunity to continue to make good on that promise.

As we discussed, the university built the current ELC for about a 15-year horizon, with plans to build a more permanent facility as part of a future academic building. But the current ELC building is already showing its age and limitations much sooner than expected. We especially appreciate your patience with those challenges over this past summer. At the same time, the university was recently presented with an exciting opportunity to bring a new data science institute to the engineering precinct on campus. Taken together, these two factors have prompted us to accelerate our timeline for a permanent ELC, and we are excited to go down this path together with you and our child care operator, the Downtown Baltimore Child Care (DBCC).

We know that any site we choose will require trade-offs, but we clearly heard from you on Friday that locating a center on or immediately adjacent to the Homewood campus is perhaps the most important criterion for the site selection process. So, while Eastern had emerged as an early frontrunner for all the reasons we shared, we know we need to reconsider and bring forward some additional options. We hope you will send us your ideas, as well.

Importantly, we want to reinforce Friday's meeting as the start of a dialogue around the relocation of the ELC to a longer-term site. To continue the conversation, we would like to invite families to another meeting on **Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 12pm** in Hodson Hall, 310 Trustee Boardroom. [Please let us know if you are able to attend by RSVPing.](#)

[You may also use this link to provide your feedback and ideas as we continue to design our future ELC site.](#) Additionally, all parent communications, the presentation from our meeting on Friday, and the feedback form are available and will continue to be updated on the [JHU Child Care Website](#) under the "Early Learning Center Site Development" tab.

Thank you again for your participation in and feedback on this very important process.



Warm regards,

Meredith Stewart

Interim Vice President of Human Resources and Executive Director of Total Rewards

Bob McLean

Vice President of Facilities and Real Estate