



Some difficult news to share with our community today.
We will not be re-opening our East campus.

Dear Open Door Family,

We have some difficult news to share with our community. We will not be re-opening our East (Cherrywood) campus. We are grateful for the decades of wonderful teachers and families that have called this school home and are confident that the heart of Open Door is not in our buildings but in the essential work that we do to help children learn and grow.

OPEN DOOR'S SURVIVAL:

Like most other childcare centers in the US, particularly those following CDC recommendations, we are in a precarious financial position. We are hearing regularly about other schools that are in danger of closing permanently or have decided not to reopen until 2021 or later. We are working every day to explore every funding opportunity that we can find - if you have ideas, we welcome them!

Our expense cuts have continued - reduced salaries, reduced schedules, and other strategies to minimize our regular expenses. Recently, our Board of Directors made the very difficult decision not to re-open the East campus and to give notice on our lease there, in order to reduce our monthly operational losses. We hope and expect that this will allow us to continue to serve families while keeping our losses manageable through the coming months.

We will be moving out of classrooms by the end of September and will likely be giving away or selling some of the materials that cannot be used at other schools. We are grateful that the current situation means that **all of the staff that are willing and able to do so have already returned to classrooms and are working with children.** Our East Site Director, Sheila Matthews, will move into the role of Director of Operations once the campus is fully closed.

Although this is a difficult decision, it is clear that it was necessary to help ensure the future of Open Door. We are thankful to be open at two locations and working with children every day. Our MLK and Central locations allow us to keep serving families in two different areas of Austin. Visiting our schools is a great reminder that our mission is to help children learn and grow - and we are doing it! Open Door is more than one place. With this decision, our hope is to ensure our survival and give us a better footing from which to recover when the time comes.

Thanks as always for sticking with us. Please let me know directly if you have additional questions at cynthia@opendoorpreschool.org.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Smith McCollum
Executive Director