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Dear State Board of Education:

What I want to say to you today is that I want to cry right now. I want to cry because I believe that the state is making a huge mistake by closing down my school. The school that I have been attending for the past three years. I feel like I came a long way in the Paulo Freire Charter School. The staff and administration at the school have done a lot to make me a better person, and a better student. I have one more year before I graduate from high school, and I want to graduate from the Paulo Freire Charter School. So, to me, the decision to close my school was not fair.

It is also not fair that I have not been guaranteed a spot at a better school. My family and I have had to run around from school to school, hoping that we can find a quality school for me to attend. In the end, I was placed at one of the lowest performing schools in the Newark. This should have never happened to me because I was already attending a good school. Why am I being forced to leave a good school to attend a poor one? If this decision was about us, why you not looking out for our needs? Why is our school being closed when it is better than almost all of the schools that are still open? To me, our school was not closed because of what they say, it was closed for other reasons. This decision was not us because now most of us are going to schools that aren't as good as the Paulo Freire Charter School, and no one cares. So, this is not fair. It's like this decision was made, and then you stepped away, and didn't care about what happened to us.

I love the Paulo Freire Charter School, and I want it to stay open. I like my school because I like the way they treat us. I like how everyone is like a family. I like how we are supported. I like how we get to see other states and countries in the world. I like that we learn by having fun. I like that our teachers plan the lessons in such a way that we will be happy at school, while why we are learning. So, why is this happening to me.

Paulo Freire has changed my life because it changed my mind about college. When I first came to the school, I did not want to go to college. I did not even think that college was for me. While attending the school, I went to so many college trips and saw so many people like me going to college, that it changed my mind. I also saw how the counselors and teachers work with students like me to ensure that we get into college and are prepared. This is why I think that you made a huge mistake by closing down the Paulo Freire Charter school.

Your decision has left me to find a new school for my senior year, my last year of school. I am now being told that I cannot graduate with my friends, who I have been in high school with for three years. I am being told that I have to go to a school that is severely underperforming. I am being told that I have to go through the college process with people who don't know me as a student or as a person. Most importantly, I am being told that the school family that I love, can no longer be my family, and this to me is an injustice!