



School Facilities Improvement Plan

Guiding Principles

1. Student Engagement and Achievement

Schools should provide a variety of spaces, tools, and resources at each level of education to promote student engagement and achievement. All schools should provide comfortable and inviting learning environments dedicated to the success of every child.

2. Safety and Security

All school sites and facilities, new or existing, need to have design elements that provide safe and secure campuses.

3. School Size

The district should explore all alternatives and opportunities for establishing and maintaining small school communities and smaller learning environments.

4. Flexibility

Facilities should promote flexible use, including space designed to accommodate different grade level configurations, physical education, health and social services, special education, intervention, conferencing, performing arts, science, career/technical education, large and small group meetings and activities, food service and dining, professional development, alternative educational programs, and storage.

5. Classroom Design

Classrooms should facilitate a variety of learning styles and teaching methodologies. Classrooms should be designed to provide multi-use spaces that support small and large group learning. Classrooms should promote thinking atmospheres and student learning. Classrooms should be of adequate size with good acoustics and should have appropriate furniture and technology, individual HVAC controls, water, wall display space, and should be handicap-accessible. Additionally, classrooms should provide adequate space for storage and teacher preparation.

6. Safe Routes to School

Safe and well-marked pedestrian and bicycle pathways should encourage alternative access to schools. Designated areas for bus transportation, loading zones, parent pick-up and drop-off, and school parking should be designed to facilitate efficient and safe passage through clearly indicated entry points and exits. Parking lots should provide adequate lighting for evening activities.

7. Library Media Center

There is a continuing need for each school site to have a centralized “library” that is accessible to the school community. In light of technological developments, the library needs to be able to adapt to and accommodate changing media resources. Where possible, libraries should be located near the main entry of the school.

8. Technology and Communication

Schools should be designed with “anyone, anytime, anywhere” technology for learning and communication, allowing for instantaneous communication between individuals, groups and campuses. Available technology should enable efficient and effective processes to take full advantage of learning opportunities.

9. Early Childhood Education and Extended Care

Adequate space for pre-school and extended care programs (either publicly funded or fee-based) should be provided on sites or alternative locations based on assessed community needs.

10. Parent and Community Involvement

Facilities should demonstrate a friendly and attractive atmosphere for students, families, and community members. Resource centers, meeting rooms, athletic and performing arts facilities and parent education space should be located and designed for multiple uses, with restricted access to other areas of the campus. Sites should provide well-displayed and clearly communicated signage and location maps in appropriate languages.

11. Environmental (“Green”) Stewardship

Facilities should reflect the District’s environmental and financial responsibility to the community through use of proven design features that maximize energy and water efficiency, use sustainable building materials and low-maintenance landscaping, and develop student awareness about environmental issues and solutions.

12. Curb Appeal

Physical aesthetics of facilities and grounds contribute to improved student engagement. All schools should provide attractive and welcoming environments that make students and their families feel valued and enhance community pride in the neighborhood.

13. Ease of Maintenance

Design should allow ease of maintenance and cleaning and contribute to on-going function, safety and aesthetics. It should also be adaptable to changes in building standards, technology and educational needs.

14. Storage

Facilities should provide adequate secure storage for all academic, athletic and other District programs.

15. Administrative Accessibility

Centralized services should be housed under one roof, providing adequate office, meeting, collaborative and confidential spaces. New facilities should allow ease of access.

16. Fiscal Integrity

Design and use of facilities should seek to maximize return on fiscal investments, assets and resources and to encourage lease revenue, operational savings, and other revenue sources and efficiencies.

17. Adaptability Over Time

The District should be responsive to changes in demographics, neighborhoods and student needs over time. This includes school and class size, potential boundary changes, designation of choice and alternative programs, school configuration and lease or acquisition of land and facilities. Decisions should reflect a balanced consideration of interests, including maintaining diverse schools, balancing total student populations, offering choice and alternative programs, providing neighborhood schools, establishing small school communities, and ensuring fiscal integrity and administrative efficiency.