



# Facilities Planning Process Community Conversation

November 2024



# Conversation Questions

1. What are the top priorities or concerns you have regarding the facilities and resources in our schools? How do you feel they impact students' learning experiences?
2. What is your criteria for a school building to continue operating in its current capacity?  
**What should be considered when making these decisions?**
3. Who is currently being disproportionately impacted by existing schools? How do we put those individuals first in this process of evaluating how our schools are used?
4. Have you participated in previous iterations of School District of Philadelphia facilities planning processes before? If so, what was your experience and what are you hoping to get out of this process under Superintendent Watlington?

# SDP Facilities Plan - An Eight Stage Process

Phase	Timeline	Deliverable	Status
Phase I	June 2022 - June 2023	Develop Strategic Plan	Complete
Phase II	June 2023 - September 2023	Develop RFP Process to Secure Data Strategy Vendor	Complete
Phase III	June 2023 - July 2023	Develop Academic Baseline Standards	Complete
Phase IV	June 2023 - December 2023	Develop a Swing Space Plan	Complete
Phase V	September 2023 - December 2023	Create a Data Planning Strategy	Complete
Phase VI	December 2023 - March 2024	Develop a Pilot Facilities Data Warehouse	Complete
Phase VII	March 2024 - December 2024	Develop a Comprehensive Facilities Data Warehouse	In Progress
Phase VIII	August 2024 - TBD	Launch Facilities Plan Project Team	In Progress

# Phase 8: Launch a Facilities Plan Project Team (August 2024-Fall 2025)

### The Problem:

The average age of District-operated schools is 73 years old, and several schools are significantly under enrolled or over enrolled. \*

### Next Steps:

A project team, composed of internal and external District stakeholders, will participate in developing a facilities plan that addresses both of these issues in a way that improves academic achievement and supports communities.

## Facilities Planning Process



\*The School District of Philadelphia's district-operated schools have classroom space for 180,000 students and currently serve 116,000 students. Charter-operated schools in District-owned buildings have classroom space for 19,801 students & currently serve 14,387 students.

# Historical Context:

## *School Closures and Lessons Learned*

- **School Closures**

- Between 2012 and 2013, the **District closed 30 schools** to address a **\$1.35 billion budget deficit**.

- **Lessons Learned:**

- District **saved at most \$24 million annually**, largely from school-based personnel.<sup>1</sup>
- Average **test scores decreased** for both displaced students and schools receiving displaced students.<sup>2</sup>
- **Student absences increased** significantly for displaced students.<sup>2</sup>

- **Application of Lessons Learned:**

- District should prioritize **student learning** while making use of **comprehensive data**, deep and transparent **community engagement**, and a focus on repurposing buildings to **support communities**.

<sup>1</sup> James Jack and John Sludden, Research for Action (2013). School Closings in Philadelphia. Retrieved from Education Resources Information Center

<sup>2</sup> Matthew P. Steinberg and John M. MacDonald, (2019). The effects of closing urban schools on students' academic and behavioral outcomes: Evidence from Philadelphia. Retrieved from Regional Science and Urban Economics, Volume 77

# Phase 8 Overview Timeline

	August	September	October	November	December
Community Engagement				Listening and Learning Tour	Public Survey
Working Groups				Project Team Meetings →	
Technical Planning			Gather/finalize data		
					Develop Framework →
Public Updates	RFPs Released	Board resolution		Launch project team	Announce Advisory Members

# Phase 8 Overview Timeline

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Community Engagement					Public feedback on recommendations					Public Feedback on plan		
Working Groups	Project Team Meetings									Project team/ Advisory Feedback		
	Advisory Group Meetings											
Technical Planning	Develop framework				Develop recommendations			Revise recs	Draft plan			Finalize plan
Public Update	Community Update				Community Update			Community Update		Present draft plan	BOE Public Hearings	Present final plan

# How Can I Apply for the Advisory Group?

The Advisory Groups will play an important role in this process. They will meet regularly from January to May 2025. Members will provide feedback, opinions, and experiences to inform the Facilities Plan.

If you are interested in being a member of the parent/guardian, principal, teacher, or school support staff advisories we hope that you will apply. Applications will be distributed across the District via email, text, and the District website.

- **Application window: November 13 - December 1**
- **Selection window: December 2 - December 11**
- **Applicant notified: December 12**
- **Advisory Groups announced: December 19**
- **Advisory Groups begin meeting: January 2025**



# Updates and Follow Up

We will be providing regular updates via our website and at public Board meetings. Please visit <https://www.philasd.org/operations/#fpp> to stay up to date.

If you would like to share additional information, you may submit a comment or question via this form





**Thank You**