



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Ben Franklin - Science Leadership Academy New Relocation Site Options

October 9, 2019

A Task Force from the 10/7 Town Hall got together to identify new criteria for consideration of relocation sites

- **New considerations to consider**
 - No co-location with another school - let's not disrupt other school communities
 - Move date to get kids back in school from Thursday Oct. 10 to Monday Oct. 14
 - Ben Franklin - must stay in one location
 - SLA - open to considering a campus model - holding classes in multiple bldgs in close proximity to one another (walkable for student)
- **“Must-haves”**
 - Solutions must work in short term (60-90 days) **AND** for the entire school year - **IF NEEDED** (*Contingency plan*)
- **Off the table**
 - Moving back into the Ben Franklin - Science Leadership Academy campus before all major construction is complete
 - Implementing a schoolwide virtual learning model for either school

Other criteria for identifying possible relocation sites

- **# of needed classrooms** - (23 each for BF & SLA)
- **Ability of site to accommodate additional student supports**
- *i.e. meal service etc.*
- **Access to technology**
- **Ability to support or have access to CTE programs**
- **Proximity to public transportation**

With this new criteria in mind, we vetted new options many of which were not viable

New Sites Considered	Site Visit/Research Findings	Viable?
Girard College	Limited space available; no nearby spaces available to support campus model.	No
Franklin Institute	Limited space available; no nearby spaces available to support campus model.	No
CHAD	12-14 rooms; not enough bathrooms for 400-500 students; windowless spaces; no nearby spaces available to support campus model.	No
1500 Spring Garden	Not interested in a short-term lease option.	No
Christo Rey - Our Lady of Hope	Extensive renovation would be needed to prepare for occupancy; lots of carpeting (allergen concerns).	No
Delaware Valley Charter	Comprehensive site visit revealed conditions that would require extensive renovations to prepare for occupancy. Would not meet our timing needs.	No

However, several new options are viable that could get students and staff back to school as soon as Monday 10/14

New Sites Considered	Site Visit/Research Findings	Viability?
440 N. Broad St. (School District headquarters)	Dedicate majority of 1st floor to school space; Utilize 10 conference rooms as classrooms; 4 rooms convert to office space; single large storage area will be converted into an additional 4-6 classrooms. Not big enough alone. Would need to be paired with another nearby space to support campus model	Yes if paired with another nearby facility
Option 1: 440+ Rodeph Shalom	Beautiful building; 10-12 classrooms available; could be paired with 440 N Broad for campus model	Yes
Option 2: 440+ Cathedral Bldg at Hallahan High School - 19th & Wood St.	15 classrooms available. Long history as an all-girls school. Co-ed considerations with SLA. Decision may not be made in time as needed.	Maybe
3300 Henry Ave. (<i>former Eastern Univ. Charter</i>)	28 classrooms. Separate building w/ parking. Must explore leasing options.	Yes
926 W. Sedgley Ave (<i>former Khepera Charter</i>)	Newly vacated (June 30); building is in great shape and ready to be used. Need to think through lunch and CTE programs.	Yes

The recommendation for SLA

A center city campus model which would include space at 440 N. Broad Street and Rodeph Shalom.

Why SLA leadership prefers it: This option would have classrooms hosted in a combination of the School District headquarters building and a nearby satellite supporting institution. There are two possible buildings under consideration for the satellite - Rodeph Shalom synagogue and the Cathedral Building at Hallahan High School. Each is within a four block walk from 440 North Broad. The buildings have been evaluated and are each suitable for our needs.

It is the unanimous opinion of the Relocation Taskforce that the Center City Campus Model would be the best choice, as it is close to our existing building, is easily accessible by transportation, close to our internship sites, and can be readily supported by School District resources.

Our second preference is Eastern Charter School at 3300 Henry Ave. This is a 2-3 story building in the East Falls Neighborhood that has 28 classrooms. This would be a single building (not a campus model). This building is our second choice due to the distance from SLA and the transportation challenge it would provide for many families.

The recommendation for Ben Franklin 926 W. Sedgley Ave.

Why Ben Franklin leadership prefers it: Upon recommendation of the staff and administration of Benjamin Franklin High School, we have selected 926 W. Sedgley Avenue as our temporary home. In our opinion this was the best option due to the close proximity to Ben Franklin and the Broad Street Line. The ability to return our students to a classroom in a timely and well thought out manner was at the forefront of the decision making process.

If for unforeseen reasons the location of 926 W. Sedgley Ave. becomes unavailable, our second choice is 3200 Henry Avenue. Both venues are acceptable buildings. The access to public transportation while available for both is not as readily available for the secondary option and may require yellow bus services.

Additional resources and supports we can provide for both sets of options

- TransPasses for all students as needed
- Buses from Ben Franklin-SLA to temporary locations as needed
- Use of CTE equipment at other locations with transportation support as needed
- Instructional materials, furniture and other supports needed for school operations will be available at both temporary locations



Thank you!