

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL PORTFOLIO REVIEW



The School District of Philadelphia has a clear vision: For all children to have access to a great school, close to where they live.

To achieve this vision, we must plan proactively not only for new school buildings but for improvements to existing buildings -- improvements that will reduce overcrowding, modernize learning environments, better support academic programs in our schools and provide more predictable pathways from elementary to high school.

Beginning in fall 2019, the District will partner with industry experts to lead a five-year Comprehensive School Portfolio Review designed to take a strategic, system-wide look at how populations and communities across our city are projected to change in the coming years, and how those changes may impact student enrollment projections for each of our schools. The review will be conducted in four cycles, each of which will focus on a different area of the city. Data gained during each review cycle will be used by planning committees in conjunction with other information to explore options that best invest our limited public dollars where they are needed most to meet the needs of our students and changing city.

We realize this topic and process will be of keen interest to every Philadelphia neighborhood. The District is committed to the collaborative development of options that balance the desires of the students and families in each study area with its overarching responsibility to do what is best for all learners.

REVIEW PROCESS

STEP 1: DETERMINE PROCESS CYCLES (March 2019)

Identify areas of the city to be included in each cycle of the review process

STEP 2: ENGAGE EXPERTS (Summer 2019)

Hire firm to bring best practices, national expertise and objectivity to the review process

STEP 3: DEFINE STUDY AREAS

Within each cycle's geographic area to better address the specific circumstances and needs of the communities within the larger geography

STEP 4: FORM STUDY AREA PLANNING COMMITTEES (SAPC)

Engage a broad stakeholder team with deep community knowledge and process expertise to inform the development of options

STEP 5: CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE STUDY

Develop current and future population snapshots of each study area and potential school-level impacts

STEP 6: SHARE STUDY RESULTS

Ensure broad public awareness of data and learnings

STEP 7: IDENTIFY OPTIONS

Engage SAPCs to consider a range of options based on study results and community needs

STEP 8: ENGAGE COMMUNITY

Gain input on options and inform revisions for SAPC consideration

STEP 9: DEVELOP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

For Board consideration

STEP 10: BOARD APPROVAL

By majority vote of the Board of Education

STEP 11: IMPLEMENTATION

Changes to take effect no sooner than the fall of the next calendar year

Steps 3-11 will be repeated for each cycle of the multi-year review process