



Reimagining Education Reinvigorating Schools

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DES MOINES, IOWA

Reimagining Education

Reimagining Education in the Des Moines Public Schools to provide the best education choices that improve student outcomes and prepare them for successful futures.

Why do we need to reimagine education?

Faced with enrollment loss and funding shortfalls, DMPS wants to find sustainable solutions that improve student outcomes, keep families in our schools and retain our great staff. With some careful planning and community support, this will be a long-lasting opportunity and not a crisis.

For the past several years, student enrollment in DMPS has been declining. The pandemic caused enrollment to slip further, and our projections indicate that enrollment will continue to drop in the future. While fewer students means less revenue for our district, it also means that facility and space needs will change.

Instead of cutting programs and closing schools, the Reimagining Education initiative is the opportunity to think differently about how to create a new system of schools that will best meet the needs of students, rather than just making cuts to the current system.



What will Reimagining Education look like?

The Facility Planning Committee is reviewing research, data and public feedback to find ways to improve student outcomes while being more efficient with district dollars, so DMPS can prioritize its people over its buildings. The possible changes that could come from the Reimagining Education initiative might include:

- ✓ Creation of new schools and programs
- ✓ Adjustment of school boundaries
- ✓ Additions to existing schools
- ✓ Consolidation of schools and facilities
- ✓ Changes to the existing K-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade configuration

Although the details of the draft proposal are still being decided, the Reimagining Education initiative will likely include efforts to create schools, programs and facilities that will attract and retain families into the district:

- ✓ Preparing students for successful futures after graduation (Diploma Plus)
- ✓ Increasing access to full-day preschool
- ✓ Redesigning the middle school experience
- ✓ Providing high-quality K-12 activity and athletic programming and facilities
- ✓ Enhancing interest-based Signature School programming

What is the timeline?

While the timeline may shift in the coming weeks and months, the Reimagining Education process will likely follow this tentative timeline:



LATE FALL 2024:

The Facility Planning Committee will complete a draft proposal for Reimagining Education, based on research, data and public priorities from a community survey.



JANUARY 2025:

The committee's draft recommendation will go to the School Board at a public meeting, and then it will go out to all staff, families and the community for review.



WINTER 2025:

Staff, families and community members will be able to give their input on the draft and suggest changes or modifications to the recommendation. There will be in-person and online opportunities to share feedback.



SPRING 2025:

The Facility Planning Committee will review the input gathered from the engagement sessions and create a revised version of the recommendation to take to the board.



APRIL AND MAY 2025:

The School Board will review and discuss the final recommendation and make a decision about how to move forward. This could include a potential future bond election to make the changes possible.

How do I make my voice heard?

Once the Facility Planning Committee, made up of parents, staff members and community members, develops its draft proposal, the public will get a chance to weigh in with feedback, both in person and online.

The Facility Planning Committee will review the input gathered from the engagement sessions and create a revised version of the recommendation to take to the board. The School Board will review and discuss the final recommendation and make a decision about how to move forward.

When the draft proposal comes to the board, the district will share details about how to participate in the discussion and share feedback.

For more information – or to submit a question or comment – please visit reimagine.dmschools.org.



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