



Reimagining Education Reinvigorating Schools

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS | DES MOINES, IOWA



reimagine.dmschools.org

What is Reimagining Education?

Reimagining Education is a 10-year plan to think differently about how to deliver a world-class education to each Des Moines student, making DMPS a destination district for families who want the best experiences and opportunities for their children.

DMPS is already making strides towards its strategic goals by improving teaching, programs and student outcomes. It is time to accelerate those gains by investing in efficient, modern facilities that support students' journey from pre-kindergarten to graduation, preparing graduates with the skills they need to succeed in college, career or the military.

Why does DMPS need to reimagine education?

The competitive, dynamic and challenging environment around Des Moines' education system gives DMPS a once-in-a-generation opportunity to embrace strengths and make the best use of its resources.

The community called for the district to rethink education, so the School Board envisioned a modern direction for DMPS, with multiple pathways for each student to cultivate success in a changing world.

This vision allows DMPS to focus resources on meeting students' needs and keeping excellent teachers and staff instead of on maintaining spaces that are not meeting students' changing needs, that are outdated and that are inefficient to maintain in light of shifting geographic enrollment patterns.

Who developed Reimagining Education?

In response to the community's feedback and the School Board's direction, Superintendent Dr. Ian Roberts directed his team to assemble a Reimagining Education committee of more than 80 students, parents, teachers, staff and community members.

They met dozens of times for more than a year, working with experts in school facility planning to study top school systems, review research, visit high-performing districts, and assess DMPS classrooms in both new and old buildings.



What does Reimagining Education include?

From preschool through graduation, Reimagining Education is about ensuring excellence in the educational experience of every student at Des Moines Public Schools. Read on to learn more about the exciting changes ahead.

Increasing Access to Full-Day Preschool and to Daycare

Preschool provides a solid foundation to DMPS students' educational journey. Access to full-day preschool is a proven path to greater success in future learning. Reimagining Education prioritizes full-day preschool with a model where every student in the district has access to these essential services to build their cognitive, social and emotional skills early.

✔ Proposed Change

Reimagining Education will increase access and reduce transportation barriers by providing pre-K services close to each Des Moines family at pre-K centers and at all elementary schools throughout the district. In addition to this high-quality early childhood education, DMPS will work with community partners to increase access to daycare options for working families throughout the district.

✔ Current Status

DMPS currently has four pre-K centers and 20 pre-K classrooms in elementary schools.

✔ Target After 10 Years

After the 10 years of the Reimagining Education plan, DMPS will have six pre-K centers and about 30 pre-K classrooms in elementary schools, distributed through all regions of the district.



Redesigning the Middle School Experience

DMPS middle schools will serve as regional hubs for the best in academics and extracurriculars, where each student will begin to imagine their future and design a roadmap to success. To ease the transition between elementary and middle school, DMPS will reimagine our middle schools as vibrant, tight-knit hubs of hands-on exploration, integrating career and technical education and interest-based learning so students can discover their passions.

✔ Proposed Change

Reimagining Education will build classrooms and change grade configurations to make this possible, with sixth grade moving to the elementary level.

✔ Current Status

DMPS currently has 10 middle schools serving sixth through eighth grades. Families who move their children out of DMPS do it most often before the transition to middle school.

✔ Target After 10 Years

After the 10 years of the Reimagining Education plan, DMPS will have five middle schools serving seventh and eighth grades. DMPS believes the exciting learning environments at these schools will inspire families to choose them for their children.



Developing Interest-Based Signature Schools

Signature Schools are innovative programs that DMPS families from any district region can choose for their children, to immerse them in specific topics, aligned with their interests, that get them engaged in their learning. While there is no decision yet about what these might focus on in Des Moines, other districts have Signature Schools that focus on things like health sciences, arts, communications or STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). DMPS will get feedback from students, families, staff and community members when it chooses themes for the Signature Schools.

✔ Proposed Change

Reimagining Education will repurpose existing buildings and build new spaces to make these exciting Signature Schools available to students in each geographic region of the district. This way, although families will be able to choose any of the Signature Schools for their children, all of them will have options closer to their homes.

✔ Current Status

DMPS already has schools and programs that could be considered Signature Schools. Two schools offer Montessori education and three schools have International Baccalaureate programs. In addition, Central Academy offers enrichment and accelerated learning opportunities, and Central Campus offers advanced career academies to inspire and prepare students for their future college, career or military goals.

✔ Target After 10 Years

After the 10 years of the Reimagining Education plan, DMPS will have as many as eight new program locations for Signature Schools, with two or three school options available in each region, repurposing existing buildings and adding new program-specific spaces.

Preparing Students for Successful Futures After Graduation

The Diploma+ program will open opportunities for students and prepare them for their futures. Every DMPS student will have a clear pathway to explore their interests and prepare to enroll, employ or enlist after graduation. The learning will start in preschool with important life skills and build throughout all the grade levels. By the time they graduate, students will have multiple opportunities to prepare for the future, resulting in special Diploma+ distinctions and certificates.

✔ Proposed Change

Reimagining Education will ensure we have facilities where each DMPS student, from pre-K through 12th grade, can get inspiring experiences and opportunities to explore the possibilities for their future.

✔ Current Status

DMPS has already begun work on Diploma+, incorporating it as a key component of Priority One in the new district strategic plan, “Cultivating Equity & Excellence Through High-Quality Teaching & Learning.”

✔ Target After 10 Years

After the 10 years of the Reimagining Education plan, DMPS will have the classrooms and flexible learning spaces it needs to make Diploma+ opportunities available to each student throughout their learning journey from pre-K through graduation.





Providing High-Quality K-12 Activity, Art and Athletic Programming and Facilities

Activities, clubs, the arts and athletics increase student interest and engagement in the life of a school, which in turn improves their academic success.

✔ Proposed Change

Reimagining Education will include additions and renovations to make sure each student across the district has access to engaging extracurricular activities in high-quality facilities, including varsity-level competition stadiums, eight-lane competitive running tracks and competition swimming pools. DMPS will prioritize improvements that benefit a wide range of students in a variety of activities.

✔ Current Status

DMPS has two eight-lane tracks, one turf practice field and two stadiums to serve the entire district, but the demand for these facilities is much higher. On the other hand, the district has more swimming pools than it has students using them.

✔ Target After 10 Years

After the 10 years of the Reimagining Education plan, DMPS will have six competitive turf fields, three regional stadiums, three regional eight-lane competition tracks and three regional swimming pools.



What changes will be necessary to Reimagine Education?

To make all the exciting Reimagining Education programs possible and to make sure each student has access to high-quality learning environments, DMPS will make changes, build schools and add onto existing buildings, including:

- ✔ Changing the district's grade configuration to include pre-K centers, elementary schools serving pre-K through sixth grade, middle schools serving seventh and eighth grades, high schools serving ninth through 12th grades, and Signature Schools serving different grade configurations from pre-K through 12th grade.
- ✔ Creating three distinct regions of the district (northwest, northeast and south), divided by the rivers, each with its own feeder pattern, leading to its own comprehensive high school. These regions and feeder patterns will increase neighborhoods' connections to their schools. The committee focused on making sure students in each region would have access to high-quality learning spaces and engaging educational programs.
- ✔ Creating as many as eight new program locations for Signature Schools, with two or three school options available in each region, repurposing existing buildings and adding new program-specific spaces.

- ✔ Adding onto many of DMPS' existing schools, providing hundreds of needed classrooms and spaces for collaboration and innovation, to make sure each DMPS student can learn in high-quality, effective environments.
- ✔ Gradually retiring, or repurposing, some buildings as the district completes construction on its new, more effective learning spaces added onto schools that are accessible to more families. This will allow DMPS to spend resources on better meeting students' needs and on keeping its excellent teachers and staff instead of on the expensive maintenance of less efficient buildings. The district office is one of the spaces that will close, and staff will move into a repurposed space.

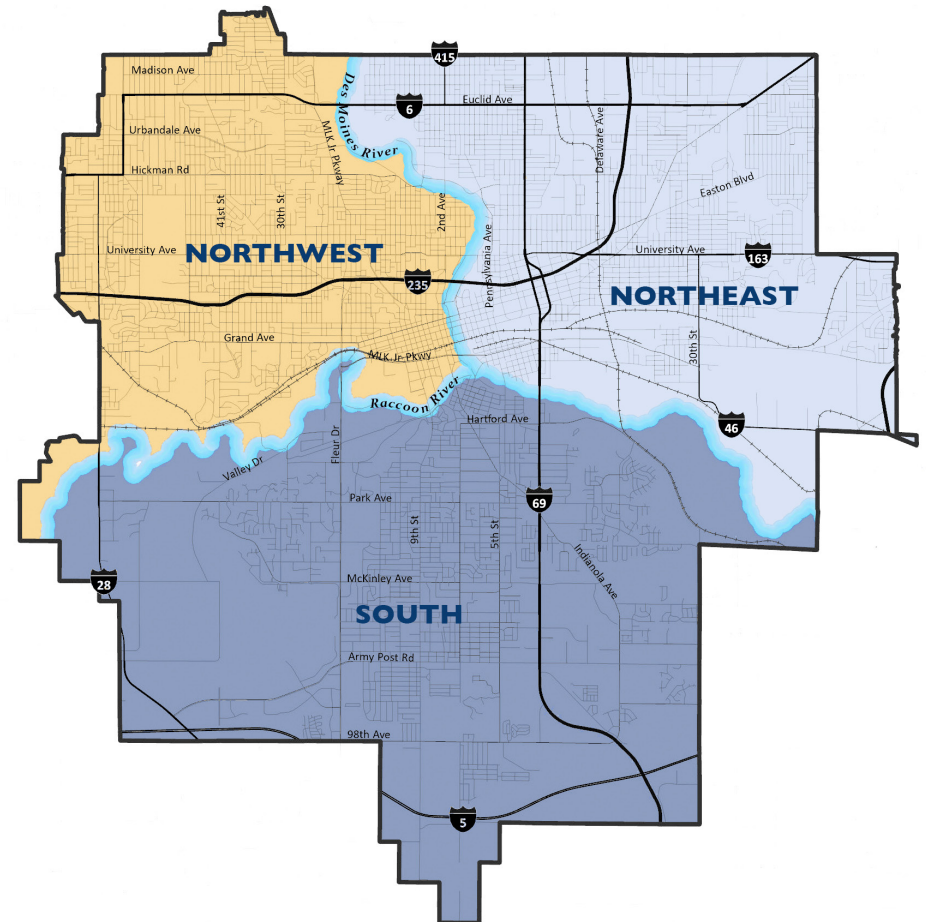


What will the boundaries be for the three feeder patterns?

The three regions of the district (northwest, northeast and south) will be divided by the rivers, each with its own feeder pattern, leading to its own comprehensive high school.

These regions and feeder patterns will increase neighborhoods' connections to their schools. The Reimagining Education committee focused on making sure students in each region will have access to high-quality learning spaces and engaging educational programs.

THE THREE REGIONS



What will the schools be in the northeast region after 10 years?

Pre-K Center:

- Findley

Elementary Schools (pre-K – 6th grade):

- Capitol View
- Carver
- Garton
- Madison
- Oak Park
- Phillips
- Willard

Middle Schools (7th and 8th grades):

- Goodrell
- Hiatt

Comprehensive High School (9th – 12th grade):

- East

Proposed Signature Schools:

- Brubaker/Hoyt (pre-K – 12th grade)
- North (7th – 12th grade)
- Pleasant Hill (pre-K – 8th grade)

Retired Buildings:

- Cattell (FY2033 – temporary use during construction)
- Harding (FY2032)
- McKee (FY2032)
- Stowe (FY2033 – temporary use during construction)

What will the schools be in the south region after 10 years?

Pre-K Centers:

- Mitchell
- Studebaker

Elementary Schools (pre-K – 6th grade):

- Jefferson
- McKinley
- Park Avenue
- River Woods
- Lovejoy
- McCombs
- Morris
- South Union
- Wright

Middle School (7th and 8th grades):

- Brody
- Weeks

Comprehensive High School (9th – 12th grade):

- Lincoln

Proposed Signature Schools:

- Jackson (pre-K – 8th grade)
- Kurtz (7th – 12th grade – temporary use during construction)

Retired Buildings:

- Howe (FY2033 – temporary use during construction)

What will the schools be in the northwest region after 10 years?

Pre-K Centers:

- JF Taylor
- Woodlawn

Elementary Schools (pre-K – 6th grade):

- Edmunds
- Greenwood
- Hanawalt
- Hillis
- King
- Monroe
- Moore
- Perkins
- Samuelson
- Windsor

Middle School (7th and 8th grades):

- Merrill

Comprehensive High School (9th – 12th grade):

- Roosevelt

Proposed Signature Schools:

- Cowles Montessori (pre-K – 8th grade)
- Meredith/Hoover (7th – 12th grade)
- Moulton (pre-K – 8th grade)

Repurposed Buildings:

- Downtown School (FY2029 – space to be repurposed for secondary programs)
- Hubbell (FY2033 – space to be repurposed for secondary programs)

Retired Buildings:

- Callanan (FY2036 – temporary use during construction)
- Walnut Street (FY2030 – temporary use during construction)





What are the next steps for Reimagining Education?

The superintendent's Reimagining Education committee shared the outline of the Reimagining Education proposal at the School Board meeting on January 21.

At the State of the District event on Feb. 11, DMPS shared specific details, including the schools in each of the three regions.

Now DMPS will get feedback from students, staff, families and the community about how to implement Reimagining Education. Then the Reimagining Education committee will review the feedback and use it to refine the proposal before bringing it to the School Board for its consideration.



Where can I find more answers about Reimagining Education?

Go to reimagine.dmschools.org to find more information about Reimagining Education, including answers to frequently asked questions.



How can I share my thoughts about Reimagining Education?

Please visit <https://reimagine.dmschools.org>, where you can find our online survey and sign up to attend one of the structured conversations to share your thoughts about how to implement Reimagining Education.

The Reimagining Education committee will review the feedback and use it to refine the proposal before bringing the proposal to the School Board for its consideration.



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