



Guiding Principles for GDS Master Planning

Part One: The Process

- **The Student Experience:** The lived experience of current GDS students during the master planning process will remain our top priority.
- **Board Financial Principles:** Throughout the planning process, the Board will endeavor to honor its objectives of slowing tuition increases and increasing financial aid and salaries.
- **Transparency & Inclusion:** The master planning process will be transparent, with opportunities for input and engagement extended both within (faculty, parents, alumni, alumni families, etc.) and beyond (neighbors, Tenleytown) the GDS community. Consistent with our founding mission, we will be mindful of engaging the voices of those in our community representing historically marginalized groups.
- **Student Engagement:** We will seek opportunities to engage a truly representative range of students in the planning process, inviting their input and delivering on our aspiration to provide authentic learning opportunities for them.
- **Demographic/Enrollment Trends:** We will consider enrollment trends and changing demographics as significant inputs into the master planning
- **Budget:** The master planning process will operate within a pre-approved budget defined by the Board of Trustees.

Part Two: The Outcomes

- **The Program:** An excellent, student-centered and contemporary education will be afforded to every student.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Any final plan will be designed to materially advance the School's financial sustainability, allowing GDS to operate and achieve mission-related objectives. As a first step, the Board will seek to specify sought-after financial sustainability outcomes.
- **People-Centered:** GDS will remain a diverse and equitable people-centered institution, with facilities that support faculty, student, family, and wider-community relationships.
- **Flexibility:** With the exception of a few highly prioritized spaces focused on specific uses (e.g., gym, theater, parking garage), spaces should be maximally flexible to allow for programmatic innovation, technological advances and evolving enrollment.
- **Design:** Aesthetics should be contemporary and welcoming, positioning GDS as a part of, not apart from, the Tenleytown community.
- **Sustainability:** We will seek to design facilities that are resource-efficient and sustainable.