



# COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

580 N 1st Bank Drive • Palatine IL 60067 | 847.963.3000 | [www.ccsd15.net](http://www.ccsd15.net)  
Laurie Heinz, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

March 28, 2022

Dear Community Members:

In District 15, our success rests on our strong partnership with you, our community. Your thoughts, opinions, and feedback inform our commitment to continual improvement and guide how your tax dollars are invested to ensure educational success and help foster community pride in our District.

We are currently seeking your input surrounding the *Moving 15 Forward* initiative to repair the District's aging school buildings and to restore and upgrade facilities focused on improving educational programming opportunities for our more than 11,000 students.

The District 15 Board of Education and administration seek your thoughts and recommendations on a funding proposal that may appear on the November 2022 ballot to address the District's highest-priority capital improvement needs. Every school, student, and neighborhood served by District 15 would benefit.

**It has been 34 years since voters approved funding to address improvements to District 15's school buildings.** While the District has worked hard to live within its means and maintain its 20 school buildings, critical facility needs have continued to grow due to a lack of available funds. The average age of District 15 schools is 54 years, with the oldest being 76 years old. These facilities encompass more than 1.7 million square feet of space.

**The proposed improvements would make District 15 schools healthier, safer, and more secure.** The upgrades would also extend the useful life of the school buildings, reduce costly emergency repairs, and enhance energy efficiency.

**Updating classrooms, science/STEM labs, and libraries would also provide many benefits, including creating space for full-day kindergarten, enhancing access to instructional technology, and offering greater opportunities for hands-on learning.** The proposed improvements would also allow the District to transition its junior high schools to a middle school concept. This extends the time between school transitions; gives adolescents greater access to science/STEM labs, extracurricular activities, and sports; and better prepares students for high school. Most school districts in the area already offer both full-day kindergarten and middle school programming.

**District 15 also seeks to align its feeder patterns with high school boundaries.** This alignment would allow students to attend neighborhood or near-neighborhood schools, improve students' access to programs and services, reduce time on buses, and address overcrowding.

**The District has listened and worked hard to develop a community-driven funding proposal** that benefits every District 15 school and student, and has a much lower tax impact than the 2016 referendum proposal. At that time, taxpayers said the request was too great, only a few schools would benefit, and public input was limited.

**The current proposal is \$37 million less than what voters turned down in November 2016.** In addition, half of the proposed improvements would be funded with "non-referendum" dollars.

**By downsizing the proposal by 28% to \$93 million, the tax impact is now lower.** For a home with a fair market value of \$300,000, the estimated tax impact is \$11.50 per month, or about \$139 per year.

**District 15 has done its homework.** More than three years of planning went into the development of the current capital improvement plan and funding proposal. Planning efforts have included detailed facility assessments, demographic studies, community opinion research involving thousands of residents, the

review of proposed improvements and financing options by a Citizen Task Force, and other community engagement efforts.

**Your input is vital. A public opinion survey will be mailed to you next month.** District 15 values your opinion and would greatly appreciate your participation. The District will also be hosting public information meetings, with dates, times, and locations to be posted at [www.ccsd15.net/moving15forward](http://www.ccsd15.net/moving15forward). Additional information about the proposed improvements, including a detailed summary of the upgrades planned at each school, is enclosed.


This is your community. We want you to be immensely proud of District 15 facilities as well as the programs and services provided. Your input plays a critical role in how the District moves forward to protect and improve your schools for decades to come.


To set up a meeting this Spring with District 15 Superintendent Laurie Heinz to present the new, downsized capital improvement proposal to your civic group, business, or organization, please contact Julie O'Hara at [oharaj@ccsd15.net](mailto:oharaj@ccsd15.net) or 847-963-3210. We welcome the opportunity to share with you, our taxpayers, the details of our *Moving 15 Forward* plan.

For more information, visit the website at [www.ccsd15.net/Moving15Forward](http://www.ccsd15.net/Moving15Forward) or scan the QR code. For general questions or inquiries about the project, please email [Moving15Forward@ccsd15.net](mailto:Moving15Forward@ccsd15.net).



Respectfully,

  
Laurie Heinz, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

  
Lisa Beth Szczupaj  
Board President