



FACILITIES MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION FAQ

March 20, 2023

Why was this option the one recommended for right-sizing the District?

- Throughout the last several decades, every time a new challenge arose within the district, a solution was created to fit that need. While each decision solved an individual issue, collectively it has brought us to the point where we needed to re-evaluate our facilities and structures. This comprehensive approach looked at a facilities strategy to right-size the district, which will allow us to ensure quality programming and excellent educational opportunities.
- This option was recommended because we feel it's the best choice for the long-term viability of the district, in alignment with SBCSC's guiding principles and strategic plan to ensure equitable resources across the district and to get more resources to students, teachers, and families.

Does this mean high school choice is gone? Can my student still choose what high school they'll attend?

- Students would maintain their ability to apply to high schools outside of their boundary, but both magnet and open enrollment would be subject to capacity constraints. Changes to cross-boundary transportation at the high school level may be recommended over the next several months in advance of 2024-25 enrollment. *Impacted students will be given priority during the school choice process.*
- Changes are subject to Court approval, and initial scenarios have been reviewed for compliance with the Consent Decree. Additional tests will be conducted on final recommendations to ensure compliance with existing desegregation guidelines.

TRANSITION STRATEGIES (if the Board votes to accept the recommendations)

How soon could this go into effect?

- Major changes like consolidations would not begin before the 2024-25 school year.

Can I finish at my current school?

- The intent is to transition with as little disruption as possible. When capacity is available, students can apply for a transfer to stay at their current school if they are re-assigned. Transportation may not be provided.

How will you ensure a smooth transition when students and staff from different schools blend together?

- A dedicated transition team will be assigned to work with the students and staff to ensure smooth transitions.
- Events will be organized to ensure students and staff are welcomed at new facilities.

How will my elementary school transition into a K-8?

- Transitions to Pre-K–8 will occur one grade at a time in the 2024-25 school year.

When would regional choice start getting enforced?

- Not before the 2024-25 school year

When do District boundaries get reassigned?

- Dedicated boundary process: summer/fall 2023

What does the building disposition process look like?

- Building disposition processes (Clay HS, Warren) will occur in 2024
- Schools that have already gone through the disposition process (old Marquette, Eggleston) will start fall 2023

What about transportation? Will this make things better?

- Transportation policy review will take place in the summer of 2023. It will include non-magnet, out-of-zone enrollment, and transportation eligibility
- District-wide transportation will be provided only to schools as district-wide programs
- Schools identified as neighborhood elementary schools would provide transportation only to students residing within the school’s boundary but outside of the walk zone
- Schools identified as a regional choice program would receive transportation only within the high school boundary (and outside of the walk zone)
- Transportation to Regional K-8s is limited to the high school feeder pattern.

What if my student has a special assignment because of IEP or a 504?

- The system will ensure that all students will have access to the support that they need. Special education needs will be addressed on an individual basis outside of this process with as minimal disruption as possible.

What will happen to current magnet programming?

- District-wide programs would maintain current programming. Traditional school programming would be maintained in scenarios in which the program remains the regional choice program, including in scenarios where grade levels are expanded. Current high school magnets will be maintained at Adams, Washington, and Riley. The fine arts programming from Clay will continue, but be relocated to Riley High School.
- The status of other magnet programming, including fine arts, STEAM, and Dual Language Immersion at the elementary and middle school levels, will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but enrollment and transportation policy for these programs will be subject to the limitations described above.

What are the plans for teachers whose school could be closed? How can current staff know that their programs will be moved and not done away with? Will current teachers have to re-apply for a new job if their school is combined with another school?

- The recommendation is not expected to result in a reduction in the workforce, and teachers maintain their SBCSC contracts in the event of school consolidation.
- In the case of full-program relocation or reclassification at the same grade levels (e.g. a shift from choice to neighborhood program), teachers will have the opportunity to maintain their current positions. In the case of program closure, consolidation, or reclassification to new grade levels, teachers will have the opportunity to apply to vacant positions across the district or enter into a placement process. The final process will be informed by the staffing process in previous reorganizations and discussions with NEA-SB, and will depend on the degree of reorganization.
- In any consolidation effort, the District will seek to minimize disruption and ensure staffing continuity to the greatest extent possible.

CAREER HUB

What is Career and Technical Education (CTE)?

- Career and Technical Education prepares students for high-skill, high-wage employment via dedicated coursework that provides them with relevant skills, knowledge, and experience to thrive in select college programs and careers.
- The Governor's Workforce Cabinet Office of Career and Technical Education recently launched a new initiative for the 2022-2023 school year called Next Level Programs of Study (NLPS).
- Next Level Programs of Study aim to improve consistency, intentionality, and quality of CTE instruction by providing students with an updated four-course sequence that progresses from general to specific in a chosen field and aligns with guaranteed dual-credits and graduation requirements upon completion.

What has been the planning process for the Career Hub?

- The strategic planning process for the Career Hub has been guided by a Steering Committee consisting of CTE experts representing some of the largest school corporations across the region, including SBCSC.
- On-going planning has taken place over an 8-month period (to date) and covered a comprehensive list of considerations for an ideal model.
- Considerations include, but are not limited to, pathway validation, best practice case studies, data-driven enrollment and equipment estimates, sustainable financial modeling, governance structuring, site feasibility studies, etc.

How does the Career Hub benefit SBCSC?

- The implementation of a new, dedicated Career Hub will provide students across the district with access to expanded CTE opportunities and top-of-the-line teaching and experiential learning spaces.
- Collaboration with school corporations across the region will help to bolster enrollment for limited-availability pathways, allowing increased access to specialty courses for all students.

- Postsecondary and industry partnerships will allow students the opportunity to achieve dual-credit and certifications through their coursework, and gain first-hand experience in their selected pathway through internship/apprenticeship programs at the Career Hub or employer site.

What are the benefits of a new standalone, centralized facility?

- A standalone Career Hub provides expanded opportunity for development of unique spaces specifically adapted for pathway curriculum and specialized up-to-date equipment for experiential learning.
- Through a centralized Career Hub, every student will have improved access to the expanded pathways and top-of-the-line spaces.
- The Career Hub will pool resources currently split across high schools into a dedicated facility and provide students with an adapted space for collaborative learning.

How is the location of the facility being chosen?

- The district and identified stakeholders are conducting an analysis of options, including building the Career Hub within an existing third-party facility or standalone build.
- Analysis of renovating existing school facilities was conducted through the facilities master plan process, and it was determined that option would be cost prohibitive.
- The analysis includes financial considerations, logistics/geographic accessibility, and the inspirational value of having programming in a neutrally located, state-of-the-art space.
- Recent feasibility studies of potential locations project that the cost of renovating an existing facility will be equal to or exceed the cost of a new build.

How will the Career Hub affect the high schools?

- The Career Hub will augment existing curriculum by expanding the CTE coursework and pathways beyond what current offerings.
- Students may take some introductory courses at their home school and transition to more advanced courses within their pathway of interest offered at the Career Hub.
- Resources once split across the high schools will be pooled and expanded to offer more unique, adapted spaces for learning.
- The Career Hub will not affect high school enrollment because everyone who attends the Career Hub would continue to be students at his/her home high school. The Career Hub complements and supports the existing programs in each high school.

How will this affect current CTE teachers?

- Most current CTE instructors will transition to working at the Career Hub and continue to teach their designated pathways aligned with the new NLPS requirements.
- Instructors at the Career Hub will be dedicated to teaching CTE and spend their full day at the new facility.
- The following are courses and instructors that will be tentatively moving to the Career Hub from their current high school:

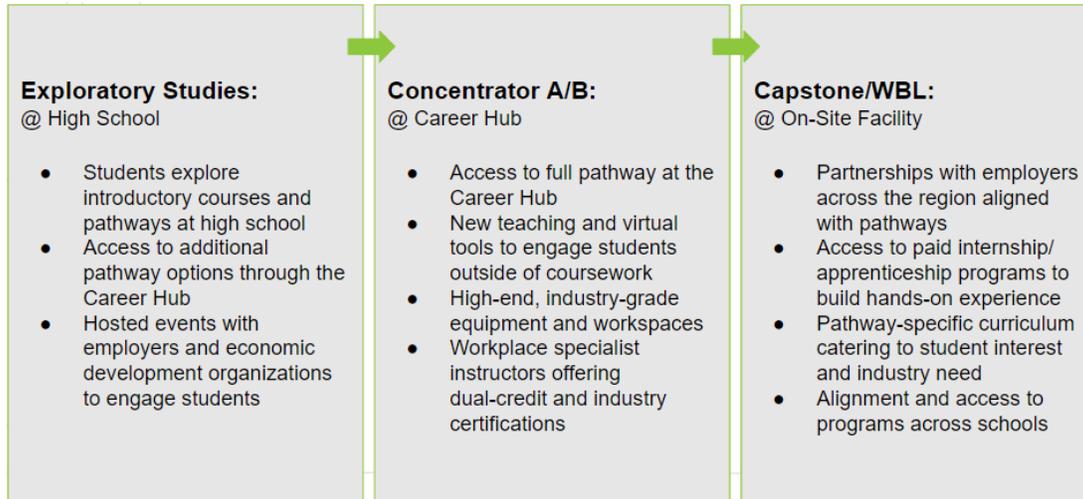
High School	Pathway
Adams	Design Technology, Precision Machining

Clay	Construction Trades, Automotive Services, Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice, Welding Technology, Early Childhood
Riley	Marketing and Sales, Entrepreneurship, Human and Social Services, Supply Chain and Logistics, Construction Trades, Cybersecurity Operations, Project Lead the Way (PLTW)*
Washington	Health Sciences (Medical Magnet)*
Community-Based	Cosmetology, Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Services, Aviation Maintenance

**These programs will stay at their home school, but may be available for enrollment through the Career Hub for participating schools.*

What will a day be like for a high school student utilizing the Career Hub?

- Students enrolled in the Career Hub will spend half of their day (either morning or afternoon) completing their selected pathway course at the new facility.
- Some individuals in the latter half of their pathway may spend half their day at the Career Hub and the other half completing an internship/apprenticeship on-site with an employer.
- The following diagrams demonstrate the journey a student may take from their home school to the Career Hub and the benefit it will provide to their education:





How will the Career Hub construction and operations be funded?

- South Bend residents, through the approval of the referendum, voted to right-size the district and create a shared-collaboration Career Hub. Therefore, the majority of the construction for the Career Hub will be funded through the voter-approved referendum funds.
- Additional construction costs will be funded in-part by the City of South Bend and an extensive philanthropic campaign.

Why is a new facility being built when some high schools are being consolidated?

- The creation of the Career Hub is a fulfillment of the referendum promise, and is being paid for through referendum funds.
- Investment in a new facility is more cost-effective than restoring older, tornado-proof buildings.
- The new space will create the ability to scale programs, expand offerings, build partnership and space-sharing opportunities—all of which can potentially increase enrollment.

How does this approach help SBCSC manage costs?

- Collaboration with the City of South Bend and a future capital campaign will allow SBCSC to manage their investment in construction, while maintaining the integrity of the Career Hub.
- Annual operation of the Career Hub will initially be funded through CTE state reimbursements and become self-sustaining through an established tuition model for participating schools.

When should we expect to hear more on this initiative?

- We are planning to have more final plans defined in Summer of 2023.