

Facilities Study Community Meeting and Listening Session



Welcome and Introductions



Purpose and Objectives



Provide an overview for the Facilities Utilization work taking place in Pittsburgh Public Schools



Gather input and feedback from all of you regarding key questions focused on your student's experience

Norms For Our Meeting

- Put the student experience at the center of our conversation
- Assume good intentions
- Build long-term solutions
- Think broader than your child or your school
- Listen actively
- Share the air
- Respect our time together and each other



Meeting Agenda

Time	Topics
10 minutes	Opening and Welcome
5 minutes	Why We Are Here Tonight
10 minutes	Now is the Time Video – Facilities Utilization Plan
15 minutes	Short Data Presentation
25 minutes	Small Group Discussions with Facilitated Questions and Prompts
20 minutes	Group Share Out and Q & A
5 minutes	Closing Comments and The Why Behind the What Video



Our Shared Goal

District Mission

The Pittsburgh Public Schools will be one of America's premier school districts, student-focused, well-managed, and innovative.

We will hold ourselves accountable for preparing all children to achieve academic excellence and strength of character, so that they have the opportunity to succeed in all aspects of life.



Our Goal for This Work:

Articulate the community's preferences/priorities for how to best achieve our mission through changes to the design of PPS' school portfolio.



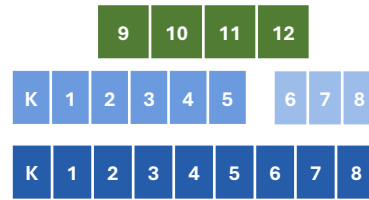
Overview of the Facilities Utilization

- Shared at the Board's April 3rd Education Committee Meeting, the administration proposed a process to review district school facilities.
- The facilities utilization review includes a proposal to optimize facility usage, aiming to enrich the learning environment for students while also addressing financial inefficiencies.
- Recognizing the pivotal role of community input, the plan emphasizes outreach and collaboration with local stakeholders to gather feedback and input.

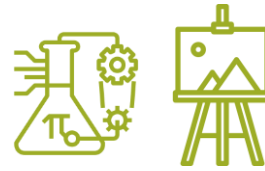
By “portfolio design” we mean...



Number & Size of Schools



Grade Configurations



Program Types



Locations



Transportation



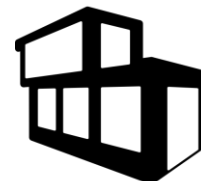
Attendance & Feeder
Zones



Enrollment & Admissions
Policies



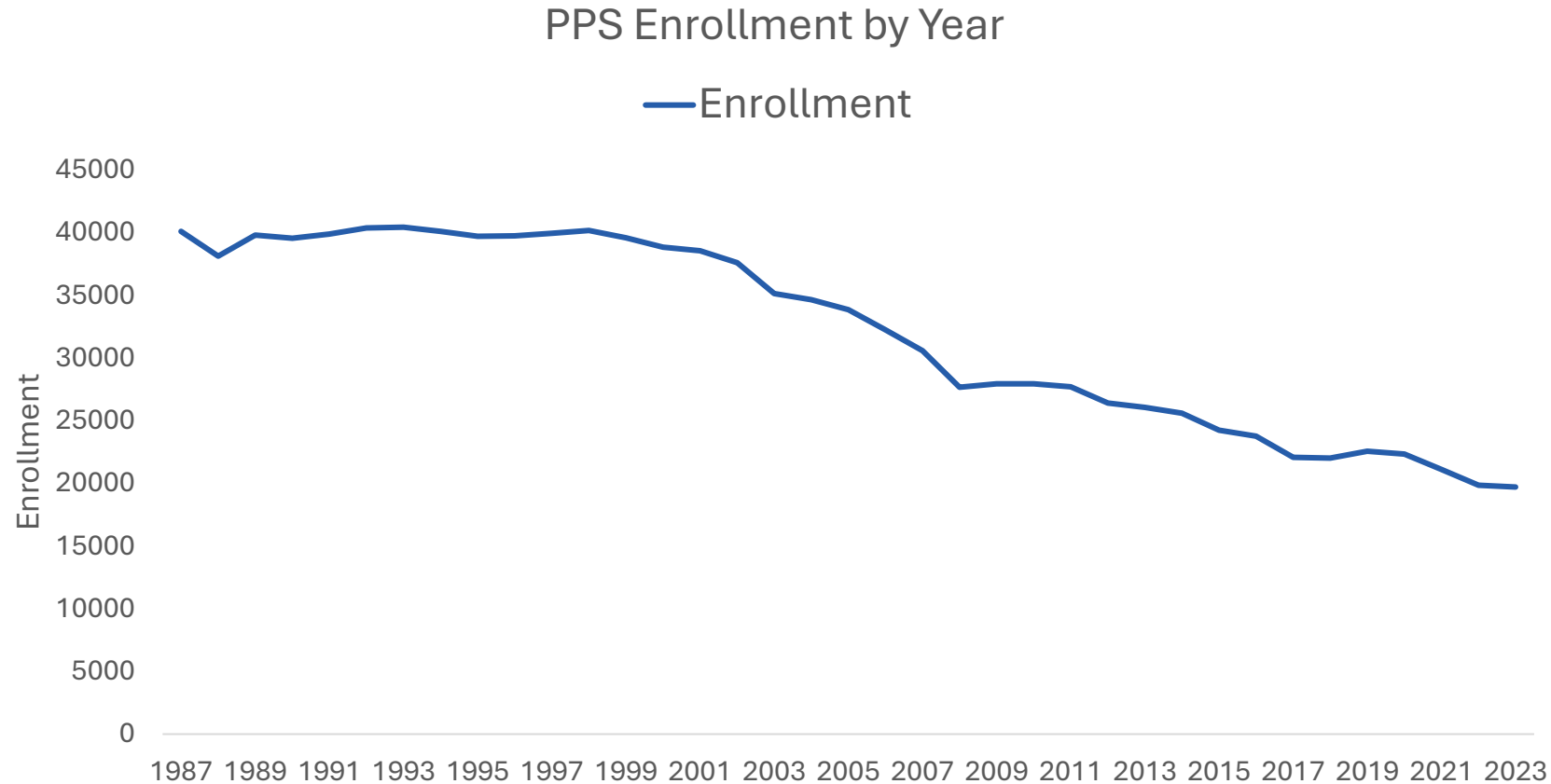
Connection to Community
Resources



School Amenities

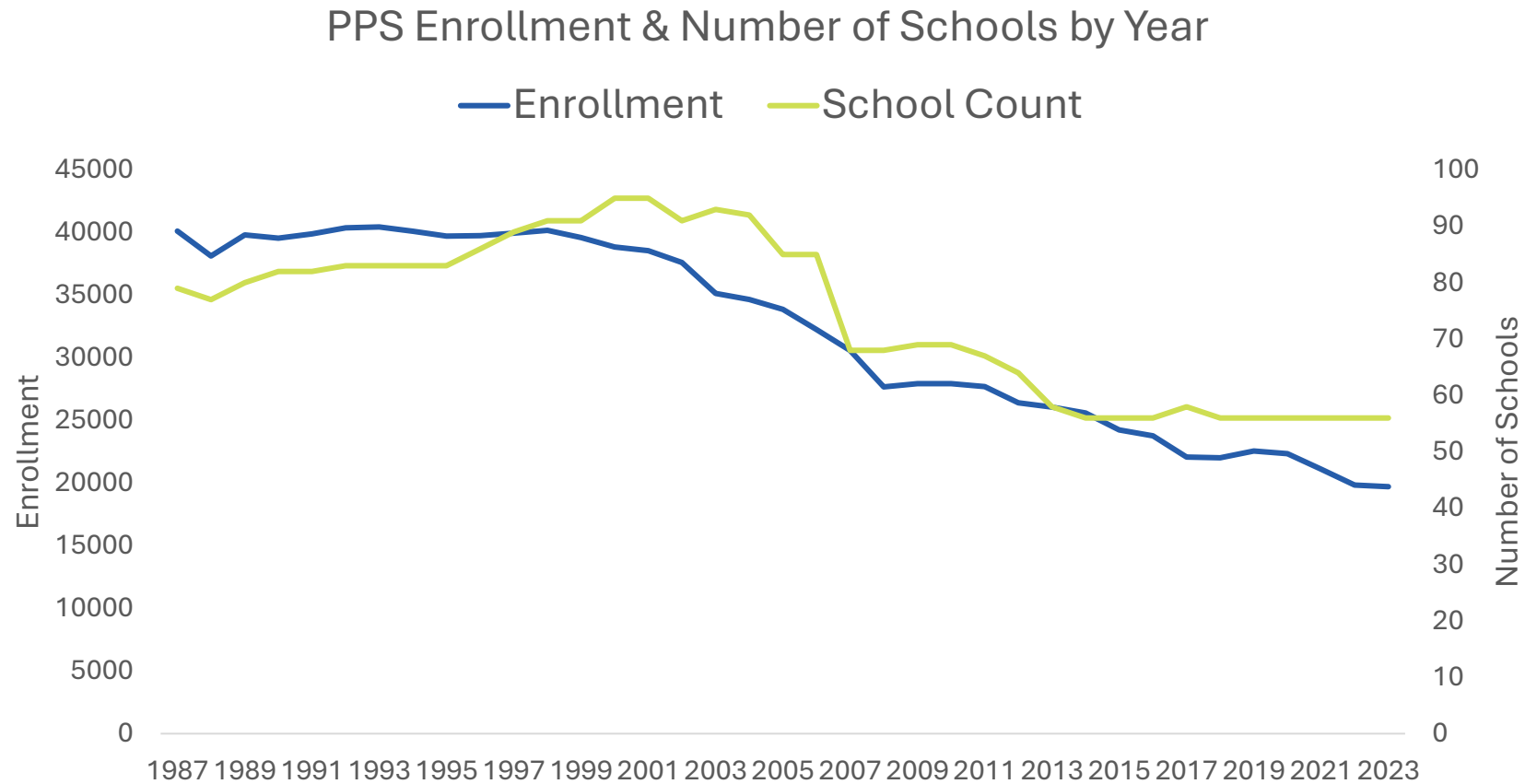


Since 1987, enrollment in PPS has declined by over 20,000 students



Source: Data from [National Center of Education Statistics \(NCES\)](#)

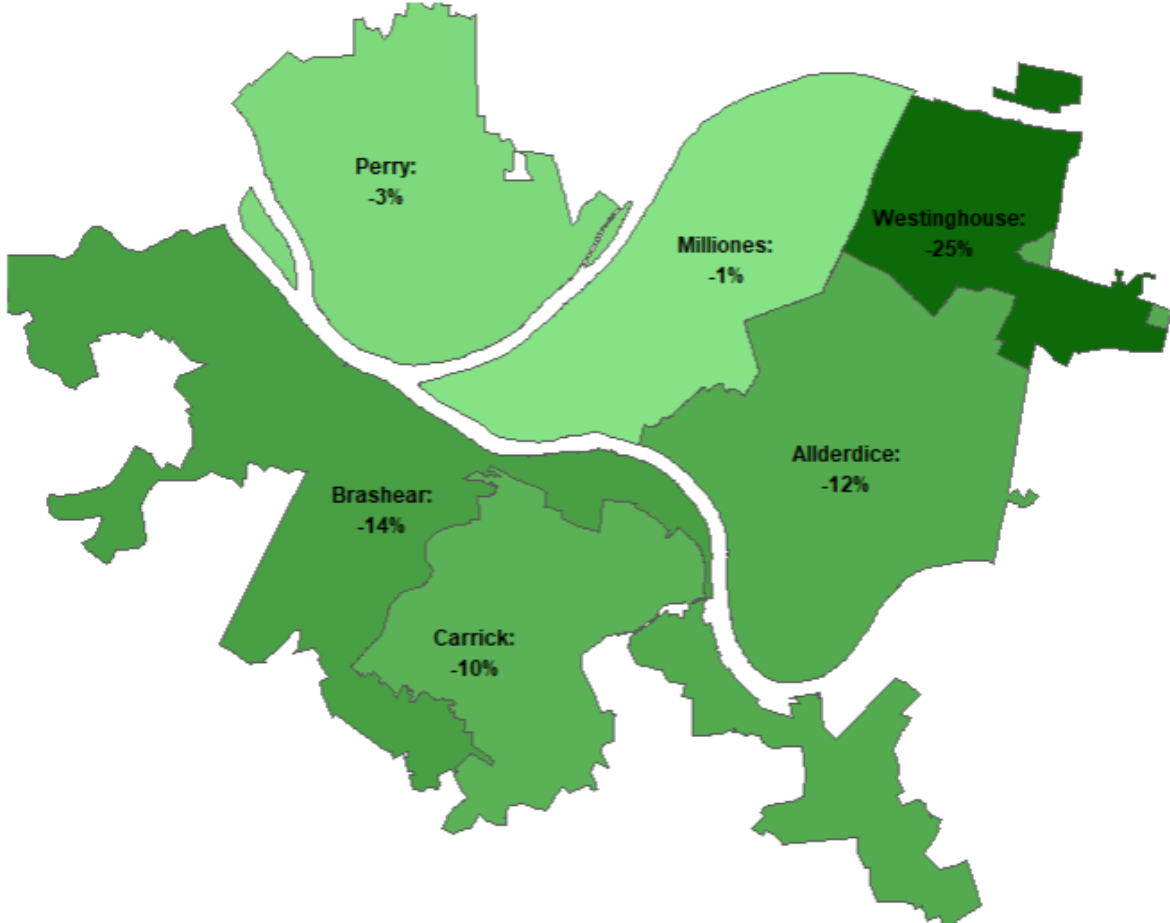
While PPS has closed a significant number of schools since 2006, continued enrollment decline has led to shrinking schools



Source: Data from [National Center of Education Statistics \(NCES\)](#)

There are enrollment changes across the district in every city area.

% Enrollment Change by Feeder Zone* (SY2020-21 to SY2024-25)



Feeder	Enrollment Loss
Brashear	531
Westinghouse	413
Allderdice	396
Carrick	242
Perry	53
Milliones	16
Full Magnets	519

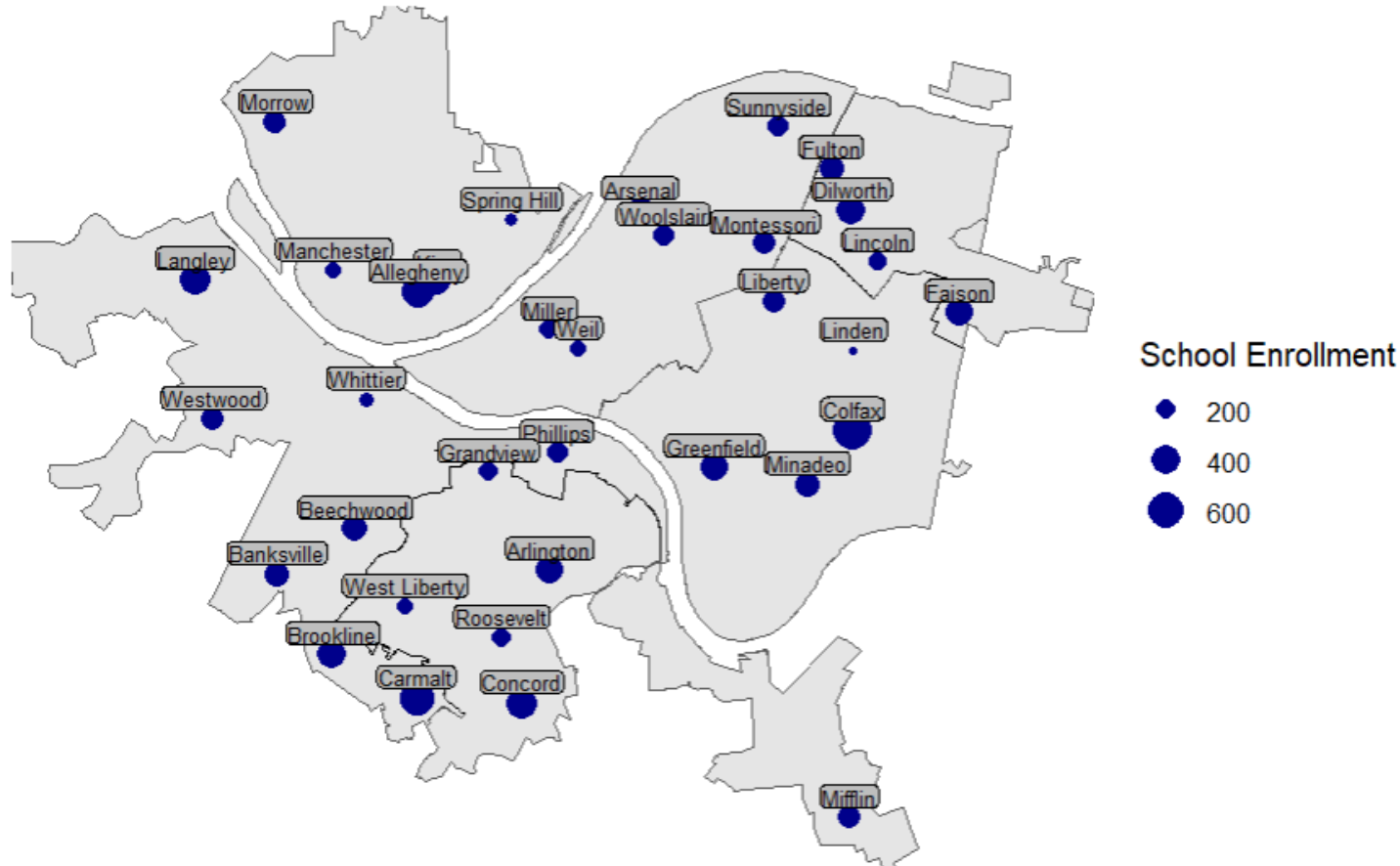


Note: The 'Full Magnets' group represents all full magnet schools (i.e., schools who only serve magnet students), regardless of grades served.

Source: ERS Analysis of District Enrollment and Schools Files (School Year 2023-24)

Small schools are distributed across feeder zones within PPS

Location and Size of District Elementaries



Feeder Zone	% Small Elementaries
Perry	75%
Milliones	100%
Westinghouse	100%
Alderdice	50%
Carrick	60%
Brashear	71%
Full Magnet	25%

Source: ERS Analysis of District Attendance Zone Shapefiles, Enrollment Files, and Schools Files (School Year 2023-24)

Note: The 'Full Magnets' group represents all full magnet schools (i.e., schools who only serve magnet students), regardless of grades served.



The Problem: Pittsburgh schools were not designed to be small but have become small due to a series of external factors including but not limited to declining enrollment, changes in feeder patterns, movement of students and families across the city.

While these small, and often under resourced schools have done their best to serve the students in their building--they face a unique set of challenges that make it hard to deliver a high-quality and equitable experience for students.

For example...



Limited breadth of course offerings, enrichment opportunities and services (i.e. Art, Music, PE)



Increased reliance on part-time staff that can be hard to attract, retain and assign

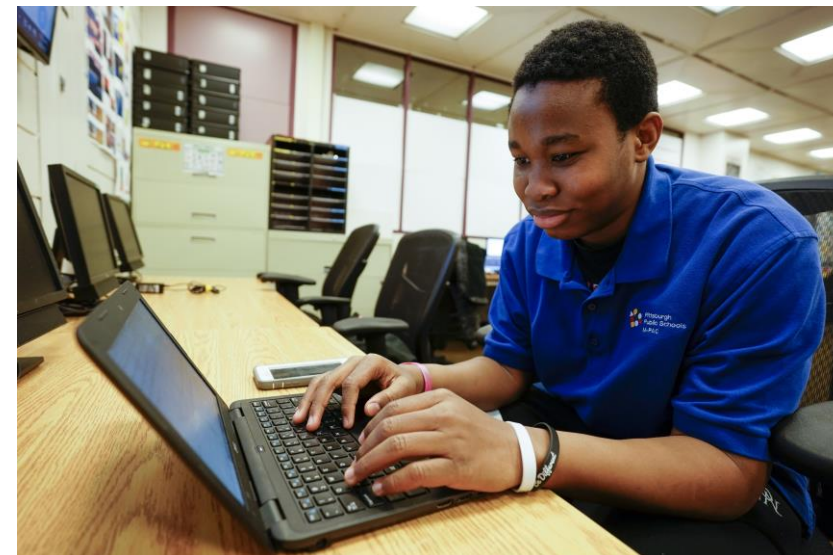


Class sizes that are very small OR very large depending on grade level enrollment



Increased number of courses that secondary teachers need to prepare for

Fewer options for teacher teaming and expert support



Feedback from stakeholders around insufficient resources

Students' expressed their concern regarding lack of class availability

Classes are often removed from student schedules due to staffing.

Classes such as Foreign Language, Art, Music and PE may not be available at all schools.

School leaders share that they have insufficient resources and staff

Staffing allocation is based on enrollment, not need

We are struggling with recruiting, hiring, and retaining staff for our school



Why facility quality and utilization are important to understand

Underutilized Buildings

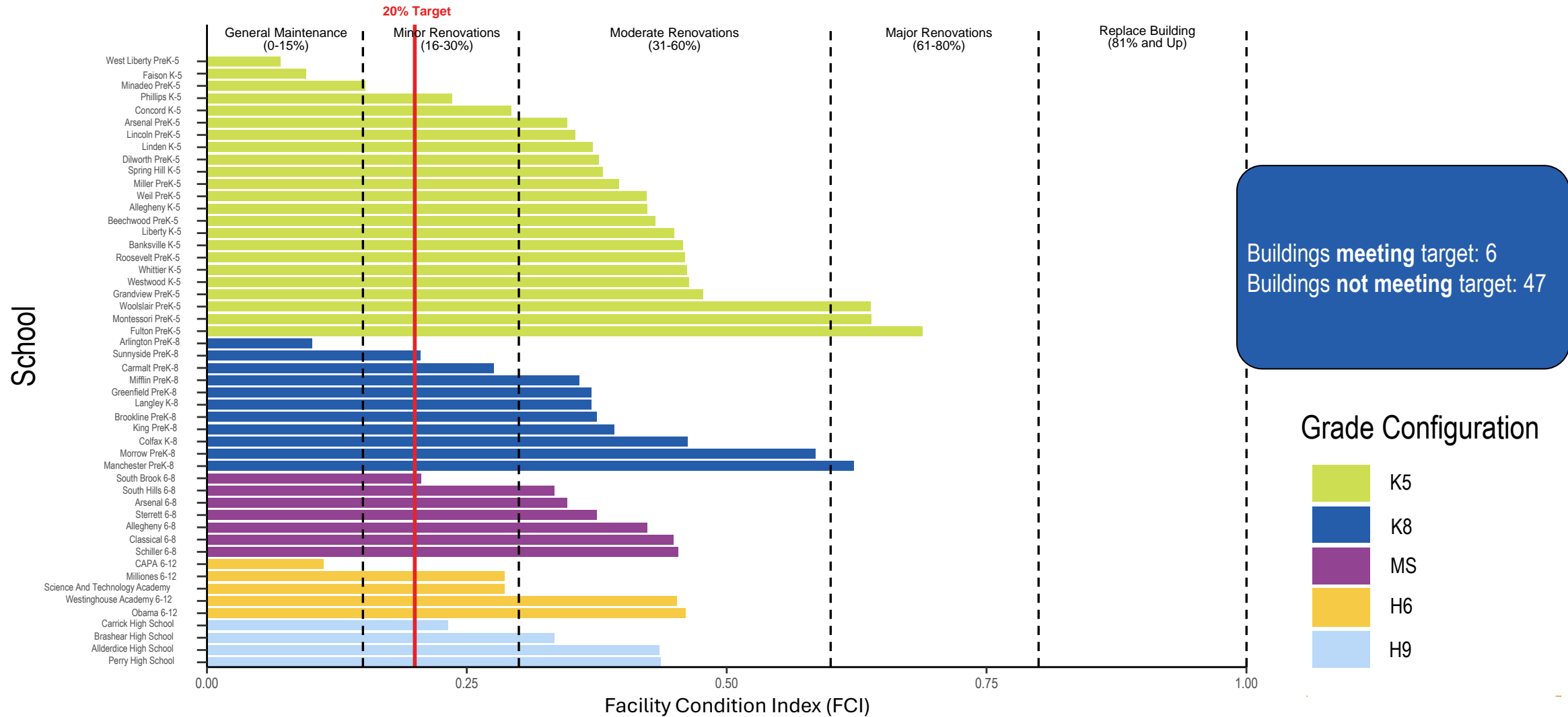
Makes it hard to sustain the necessary resources for efficient building operation, contributing to increased maintenance challenges and costs.

Lower Quality Facilities

Diverts funding away from students to building renovation, creates an environment that is not conducive to learning, and can exacerbate challenges attracting and retaining students and staff

Across feeder zones, most schools would require minor to major renovations

Building Facility Condition Index (FCI) by School Grade Configuration



Source: ERS Analysis of PPS District Facilities Data Breakdown (2021)

Note: Facility information for Morrow PreK-8 reflects Morrow Intermediate on Flemming Ave.

The Problem: most schools would require minor to major renovations at a significant financial cost.

The district does not have the available resources needed in the short or long term to address all of the needed renovations.

What's most important for you as PPS contemplates portfolio changes for the future?



For Discussion:

- 1. Take a minute and complete the form*
- 2. Select a design essential (on the right), you may select one or more.*
- 3. Write down why it is important to you and your hopes for students in this community?*
- 4. Share and discuss 1-2 items with your group.*

What does PPS need to keep at the forefront as it contemplates possible Portfolio scenarios?

Key Consideration	Description
<u>Geographic Proximity and Natural Boundaries (Rivers, Bridges, etc.)</u>	Ensuring students have a reasonable distance to their neighborhood school without crossing a major natural boundary
<u>Neighborhood boundaries</u>	Ensuring that students can attend a school in their local or nearby neighborhoods
<u>School Capacity and Building Utilization</u>	Maximizing the available seats and space within a school.
<u>Safety and Security including Traffic Patterns</u>	Addressing the traffic flow in the area, safe operation of buses, and/or other safety concerns
<u>School Feeder Alignment</u>	Aligning the elementary, middle, and high school attendance boundaries to create continuity K-12.
<u>Special Programs</u>	Ensuring that schools have the space available for students who may need special programming.
<u>History and Frequency of Neighborhood Rezoning or changes</u>	Understanding the neighborhoods that have been impacted by the rezoning or other changes in recent years.
<u>Enrollment and Demographic population growth/decline</u>	Anticipate significant shifts in population changes (growth/decline) and determine a strategy to address over time.
<u>Preservation of School Communities & Relationships</u>	As much as possible, students that transition to new schools stay with a cohort of their peers and adults they know

What's does PPS need to keep at the forefront as it contemplates Portfolio scenarios?

1. Geographic Proximity and Natural Boundaries (Rivers, Bridges, Other natural boundaries, etc.)
2. Neighborhoods boundaries
3. School Capacity and Building Utilization
4. Safety and Security including Traffic Patterns - Traffic flow in the area, safe operation of buses, and other safety considerations.
5. School Feeder Alignment -
6. Special Programs – Ensure that the school has the space available for students who may need special programming.
7. History and Frequency of Neighborhood Rezoning or changes
8. Enrollment and Demographic population growth and decline
9. Preservation of School Communities & Relationships

For Discussion:

1. *What would you add to this list?*
2. *For the schools in this community, what are the top 2 things that should be taken into consideration?*