

Board Exhibit Item: Specialized Program Placement, Playground Improvements, and Elementary Facility Recommendations

Background:

As part of the District's continued facilities planning process, Lakewood City Schools remains committed to creating equitable, accessible, and developmentally appropriate learning environments for all students. Through the review of enrollment trends, program locations, and facility capacities, the following recommendations are proposed to optimize space, improve accessibility, and ensure alignment with student and program needs.

Recommendations

1. Specialized Program Placement

- CHAMPS Classrooms: Move from Horace Mann Elementary School to the first floor of Hayes Elementary School to provide full accessibility for students with mobility needs.
- RISE Classrooms: Move from Emerson Elementary School to Horace Mann Elementary School to better align with facility layout and available space.
- STARS Classrooms: Remain at Emerson Elementary School, where the environment continues to meet program requirements.
- Gifted Self-Contained Classrooms: Move from Grant Elementary School to Hayes Elementary School to optimize building classroom space.

2. Playground Accessibility and Improvement Plan

- Reinvest and update the playgrounds at Horace Mann and Emerson Elementary Schools.
- Modify the Hayes Elementary playground to improve accessibility and add new ADA-compliant features.
- Evaluate and create a plan to update the other elementary playgrounds as necessary.

3. Facility Repurposing and Boundary Realignment

- Repurpose Lincoln Elementary School as the Lakewood City Schools Early Learning Center.
 - The Early Learning Center would provide before- and after-school care, as well as summer daycare options, while ensuring efficient use of space and resources and maintaining equitable access for all students.
- Redraw attendance boundaries for the remaining six elementary schools to better reflect enrollment trends, walkability, and program needs.

Implementation Timeline

2027 – 2028 School Year

- New boundaries for the six elementary schools go into effect
- Relocation of specialized classrooms takes effect
- Lincoln School is repurposed - Lakewood City Schools Early Learning Center opens
- Upgrade the Emerson playground

Spring 2026 – Fall 2026

- Create transition teams and build rollout strategy
- Finalize boundaries for six elementary schools
- Upgrade Horace Mann & Hayes playgrounds