Vision



We strive to cultivate an educational foundation that empowers students to realize their full potential, thrive as productive global citizens, ignite positive change, and create a more just and equitable world.

Dear CSD Community:

We would like to inform you that the City Schools of Decatur Board of Education has initiated a comprehensive review of K-2 school utilization. This review will assess how CSD's K-2 schools are currently being utilized to ensure that space, staffing, and resources align with student needs while also maintaining operational efficiency and fiscal responsibility.

The Board of Education work session on October 14, 2025, served as a preliminary discussion to review various options, including the potential closure of a K-2 school. The consulting firm Education Planners has been engaged to facilitate this process and presented a timeline for the first time at the work session, along with a detailed overview of the school closure and redistricting process. The board has not yet decided which school, if any, will be closed. There will be opportunities for families to share their input in the upcoming weeks.

The considerations surrounding the closure of a K-2 school are influenced by several factors, including the decline in K-2 enrollment at CSD, which mirrors the broader trend of decreasing enrollment in public school districts across the Metro area and the state. The Board of Education plans to vote on its final determination, which may include a school closure and the reassignment of affected students, in December in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year.

CSD is committed to maintaining transparency and clear communication throughout this comprehensive process. Additional information and regular updates will be shared through the CSD website, social media, and various communication channels, including the Bulletin Board newsletter, district newsletters, and direct emails.

CSD also encourages community input and ideas regarding the K-2 school utilization and redistricting process at several upcoming meetings. Your voice is vital as we work together to make the best decision for our students and our schools.

Dates of Public Hearings for Feedback on K-2 School Utilization and Redistricting Process:

- Wednesday, October 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Beacon Hill Middle School, Cafeteria
- Thursday, November 13, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Beacon Hill Middle School, Cafeteria

While we encourage everyone to attend the public input hearings, please also consider submitting your feedback in writing at this <u>feedback form</u>.

After receiving community feedback, two plans will be developed and posted for review on the CSD website on **October 27, 2025**. We recognize the profound emotional impact that such decisions can have on students, their families, staff, and the broader community.

At CSD, we cherish our close-knit schools for the sense of community they foster among our students and the sense of familiarity they bring to our neighborhoods. We are committed to collaborating with our CSD families to preserve and enhance CSD's unique community spirit while pursuing solutions that will responsibly and sustainably ensure the exceptional educational experience in which we take great pride at CSD.

Thank you for your engagement and partnership as we navigate this planning process together.

Sincerely,

Gyimah Whitaker, Ed.D. Superintendent

