



FAQ: DUSD Middle School Transition

Dinuba Unified School District is moving forward with its plan to establish two middle schools in Dinuba, serving students in grades 6 through 8 starting August 2026. Below are frequently asked questions that have been provided at our Parent Webinars regarding the transition. DUSD will continue to update the community as more details are implemented.

Q. #1	What new school structure is DUSD establishing?
A.	DUSD is planning the creation of two middle schools in Dinuba for 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grades.
Q. #2	Why is this plan being implemented?
A.	1. It creates two smaller schools of 650 to 700 each. 2. It creates safer boundaries and shorter walking distances for some students. 3. It creates classroom space at our elementary schools for extended day kindergarten at all sites.
Q. #3	What is the data behind this?
A.	See link below to school size article: Illinois Education Research Council School Size Article
Q. #4	How will this change impact our elementary schools?
A.	The change reduces the number of students on each elementary site and allows for extended day kindergarten.
Q. #5	How will this change impact our middle schools?
A.	The existing WIS staff would divide between two sites and each site will be smaller in overall student population.
Q. #6	When would the two middle schools open?
A.	They would both open in the fall of 2026.
Q. #7	Who will this affect?
A.	All students currently in 5 th , 6 th , and 7 th grade as well as all 6 th grade teachers and some 7 th and 8 th grade staff.
Q. #8	Will the two schools have the same programs?
A.	Both schools will have identical core programs (ELA, Math, History & Science)
Q. #9	Will 6th grade students change classrooms like 7th & 8th?
A.	6 th grade will likely have a modified 7 period day, only changing classrooms within its own grade level.
Q. #10	What about the teaching staff?
A.	Current sixth grade teachers at schools north of El Monte (Roosevelt, Lincoln and Kennedy) will move to WIS. Sixth grade teachers currently teaching at schools south of El Monte, (Jefferson, Wilson, and Grand View) will move to the new middle school. This keeps teachers with students and families that they know. Some current WIS staff will move to the new site.
Q. #11	What will be the name of the new middle school?
A.	We hope to have a new principal named by January of 2026. This new administrator will create a task force for naming the school and will make a recommendation to the Governing Board.
Q. #12	What physical changes will be made to the former high school to accommodate a middle school?
A.	Some remodeling, painting and repairs will need to be done in preparation for the new school. Additional fencing to secure certain areas may be needed.

Q. #13	Will there be some kind of transition plan for the students moving to the new school?
A.	Yes, WIS already has orientation and bridging activities for incoming 6 th graders and parents. The district will ensure that similar activities and structures are in place for all students and families at both middle schools.
Q. #14	Will there be boundary changes for elementary and middle school students?
A.	New attendance boundaries will be established for the middle schools. The elementary attendance boundary will likely be adjusted as well. This could potentially include Lincoln and Kennedy areas on the south side of El Monte, in addition to other areas due to new construction or population shifts.
Q. #15	How much interaction will there be between 6th graders and 7th & 8th?
A.	There will be limited interaction between the 6 th grade students and upper grades at the middle schools. Potentially 6 th graders would be included at assemblies, special activities, etc. Sixth grade will have its own PE period, they will not be dressing out for PE or joining 7 th and 8 th grades for PE.
Q. #16	What about sports and band?
A.	The two middle schools will have one unified sports team for each of the traditional sports already being offered at WIS. In addition, we are establishing an aquatics program, which includes swimming and water polo. Students will participate under one name to be determined, Dinuba, for example.
Q. #17	Will there be electives for 6th grade?
A.	Yes, efforts will be made to provide equitable elective experiences for all students. These may vary depending on facilities.
Q. #18	Will the start and end time of the day change?
A.	This is yet to be determined. We may have a common start to the day, and have 6 th be released a bit earlier.
Q. #19	How will 6th grade teachers collaborate with 5th grade teachers?
A.	There has always been good communication between grade levels for planning purposes. This will continue to be the case.
Q. #20	Will there be counselors & school psychologists available for students?
A.	Yes, the same level of counselor and school psychologist support will be available at both sites.