



Mergers



Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Recommendation: Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Overview of School Action



Merging Alfred A. Benesch with George Washington Carver will benefit both schools through a higher-quality student experience, including additional courses beyond art, music, and PE – along with expanded sports

Alfred A. Benesch (Benesch)

- Alfred A. Benesch's enrollment is unsustainably low and declining in a poor condition and small building, limiting the school's ability to offer a robust student experience
- There are available seats in the region that are in good condition buildings and will allow for a higher-quality student experience
- Specifically, students will have a reserved seat at Carver, a school with a higher star rating (2 stars compared to Alfred A. Benesch's 1.5 stars) housed in a good condition building

George Washington Carver (Carver)

- Carver is in a good condition building with a need for greater enrollment to sustainably offer more opportunities for students
- Carver will continue to serve students in its current location, welcoming students from Alfred A. Benesch

Recommendation: Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Transitioning School Data: Alfred A. Benesch



Transitioning School Data: Benesch		How the data informed the recommendation
K-8 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 239	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrollment is very low compared to the 450-student target for K-8s450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● -13%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrollment has fallen at a more significant rate than the district median (-12%)
Building Condition Score	● 49	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The building is in unsatisfactory condition and would need significant investments to stay open
Building Planning Capacity	● 345	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The building is too small to hold 2 classes per grade which limits enrollment and means this building will not be able to offer a robust student and staff experience, regardless of investmentsEven in this smaller building, enrollment is below the building's planning capacity, requiring resources to maintain space that could otherwise be used for students and staff

K-8 Enrollment

- Strong (>450)
- Low (360-450)
- Very low (<360)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity

- Below 450

Recommendation: Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Welcoming School Data: George Washington Carver



Welcoming School Data: Carver		How the data informed the recommendation
K-8 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 309	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrollment is very low compared to the 450-student target for K-8s450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● -18%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enrollment has fallen at a more significant rate than the district median (-12%)Continued enrollment decline threatens the ability to provide a robust student experience in the future
Building Condition Score	● 84	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The building is in good condition and will continue to serve the community as a K-8 school
Building Planning Capacity	520	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The building is large enough to hold 2 classes per gradeAchieving strong enrollment will ensure this space is used most effectively for students

K-8 Enrollment

- Strong (>450)
- Low (360-450)
- Very low (<360)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity



- Below 450

Recommendation: Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Student Experience



Merging Alfred A. Benesch with Carver will allow all students access to additional courses beyond art, music, and PE – along with expanded sports

	Benesch SY 2025-26	Carver SY 2025-26	Carver (merged) SY 2026-27	
 Course options	3	3	4 or more	} Students will have more academic and extracurricular opportunities available to them
 Sport options	5	6	6 or more	

Additionally, in school year 2026-27, Carver will offer:



More options and better participation in **clubs and extracurricular activities**



Continued student supports to meet academic, physical and mental health, and language needs



Space and support for students served in **self-contained special education and PreK classrooms**

Recommendation: Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Map View



Students at **Alfred A. Benesch** have
a **reserved seat at George
Washington Carver**

Star rating ★★

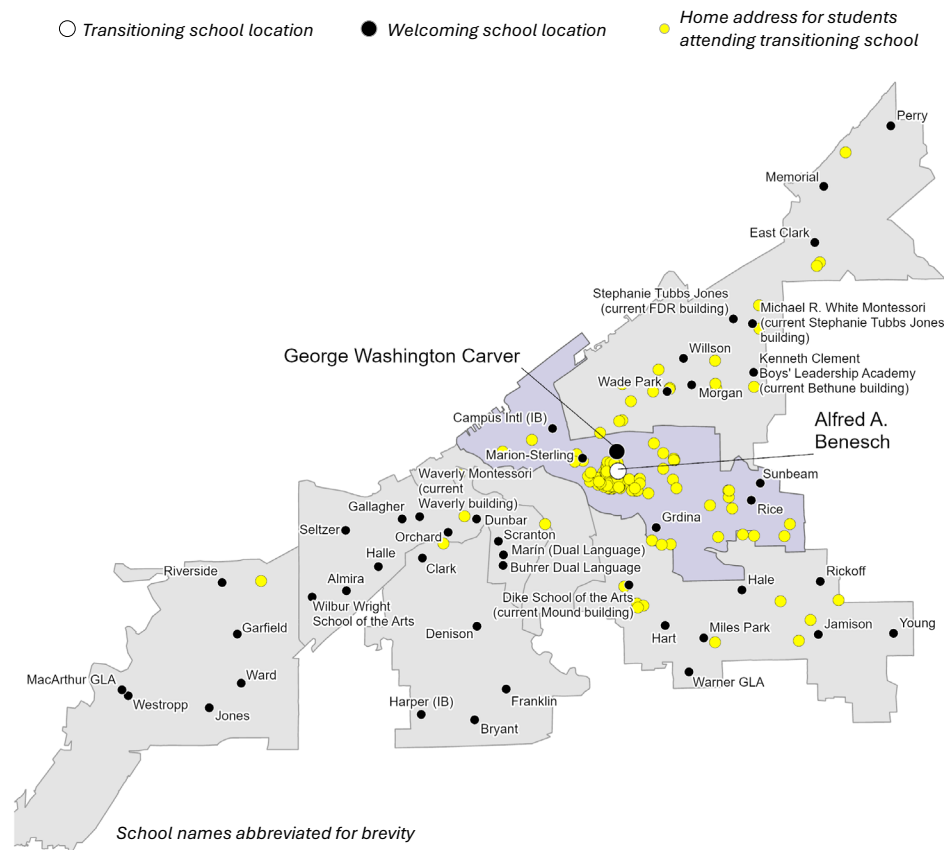
Building
condition score 84

Address 2200 E 55th St

Distance
between
schools 0.4 miles

Transportation* Current Benesch students
who accept this reserved seat
and reside within 3 miles of
Benesch and more than a mile
from Carver are eligible for
transportation to Carver for SY
26-27 and SY 27-28.

*All students with transportation-related accommodations on their IEP will
continue to receive transportation, regardless of where they live.



If you would like to
explore other
options, students
currently at
Benesch will also
receive first
priority for
available seats at
all schools they
are eligible to
attend during the
School Choice
application
process, which
launches in
January.

Recommendation: Merge Alfred A. Benesch with George W. Carver

Looking Ahead



Transitioning school

Benesch students in grades K-7 have a reserved seat at Carver and first priority for *available seats* at all other schools during the School Choice Process

Welcoming school

Carver students in grades K-7 do not need to participate in School Choice to remain at their current school



School choice

Families can use the CMSD School Finder and School Choice Book to better understand their options starting in December.

School Choice will launch in January and run through the end of February.



Leadership

Principals for the 2026-27 school year will be appointed in December.



Staff

Staff assignments will be confirmed in Spring 2026, following the School Choice process.

School staff teams will be merged in alignment with our contractual obligations, enrollment, and the needs of the merged student community.



School community

Students, families, and staff will have opportunities to connect and collaborate around the future of the unified school community over the course of the spring and summer before the start of the 2026-27 school year.

All current 8th graders across CMSD will continue to be supported in making a high school choice.

Special education single classrooms will still be offered at multiple schools in every region. Families whose children are in these specialized classrooms will get additional outreach and support to enroll.