



## 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

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Transitioning School Data: Alfred A. Benesch



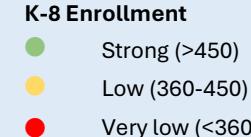
| Transitioning School Data:<br>Benesch |        | How the data informed the recommendation   | K-8 Enrollment   |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--|--|
| K-8 Enrollment<br>(SY 24-25)          | ● 239  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Enrollment is very low</b> compared to the 450-student target for K-8s</li><li>450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Strong (&gt;450)</li><li>Low (360-450)</li><li>Very low (&lt;360)</li></ul>          |
| Enrollment Trend<br>(2019-2025)       | ● -13% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enrollment has <b>fallen at a more significant rate</b> than the district median (-12%)</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt;0% growth</li><li>0-12% decline</li><li>&gt;12% decline</li></ul>                |
| Building Condition<br>Score           | ● 49   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The building is in <b>unsatisfactory condition</b> and would need significant investments to stay open</li></ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Like New/Good &gt;80</li><li>Fair/Poor 60-80</li><li>Unsatisfactory &lt;60</li></ul> |
| Building Planning<br>Capacity         | ● 345  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>building is too small</b> 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 investments</li><li>Even 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</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Below 450</li></ul>  |

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Welcoming School Data: George Washington Carver



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



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## 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**

|   | <b>Benesch</b><br>SY 2025-26 | <b>Carver</b><br>SY 2025-26 | <b>Carver (merged)</b><br>SY 2026-27 |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  <b>Course options</b> | 3                            | 3                           | 4 or more                            |
|  <b>Sport options</b>  | 5                            | 6                           | 6 or more                            |

*Students will have **more academic and extracurricular opportunities** available to them*

**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**

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Map View



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

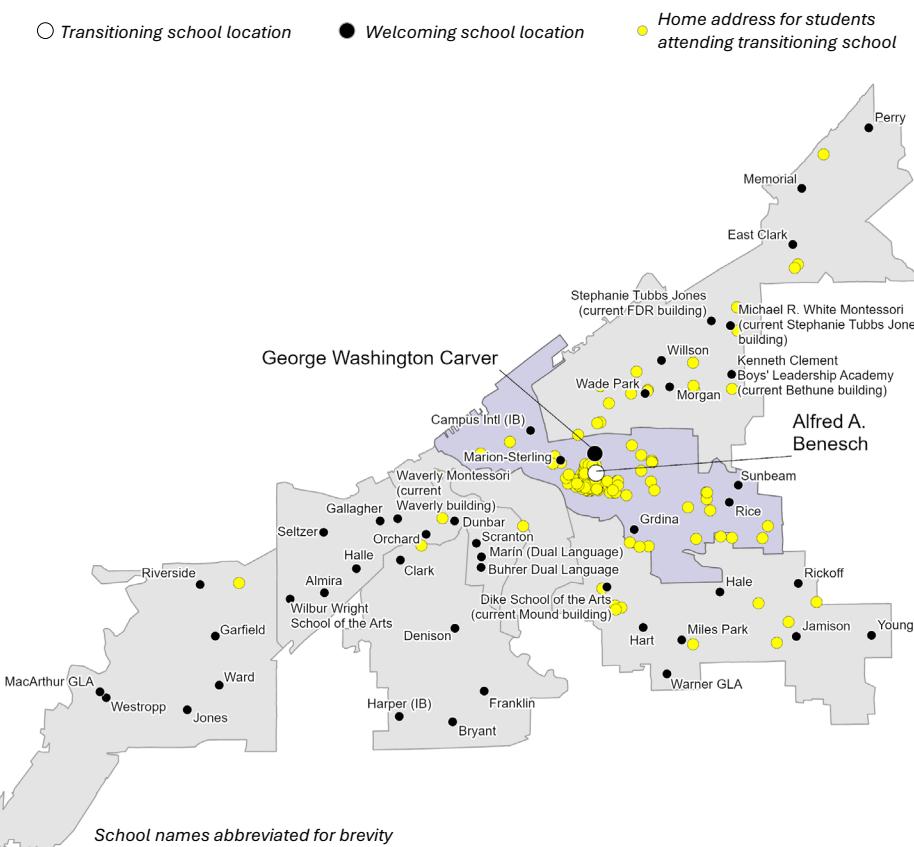
**Star rating** ★★

**Building condition score** 84

**Address** 2200 E 55<sup>th</sup> 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.



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.

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

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## 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.*