

A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a young boy in a dark blue hoodie is looking at a laptop. Behind him, a girl with long brown hair is writing in a notebook. In the background, a teacher with long blonde hair and glasses is smiling. The classroom has a bulletin board with various papers and a world map. A red rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing white text.

Providence Schools

**Kennedy Elementary
School
School Construction
Updates**
January 2025

Goals of today's session

- Share answers to questions we have received
- Discuss swing space in greater detail
- Discuss next steps/milestones

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FAQ document contains list of answers to common questions with most frequent/important below

Q1: Why is construction happening and how was Kennedy selected?

- Our facilities have significant needs and the district has an ambitious goal of having enough seats in new or like new schools by 2030
- Key to this plan is expanding options that we have heard from parents: greater access to pre-kindergarten and different middle school options
- Kennedy was identified as a priority for the next phase of construction based on the quality of its current facility, current enrollment, and the ability to use the existing site for a Pre-K through 8 school
- Given once-in-a-lifetime amount of state reimbursement, construction needs to begin soon

Q2: What is overall recommended swing space plan for Kennedy?

- Students in grades K-5 would move temporarily to the Hopkins Middle School building for SY2025-2026 and SY2026-2027
- For school year 2026-2027, Kennedy would grow to be a K-6 before returning to the new building in SY2027-2028 as a PK-7
- Hopkins Middle School will operate grades 7-8 in SY2025-2026 and grade 8 in SY2026-2027 in the same building
- Kennedy and Hopkins are not merging, but will be co-located in the same building during construction. More information in later in the presentation on how co-location will work

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

FAQ document contains list of answers to common questions with most frequent/important below (continued)

Q3: Will students receive transportation while the school is in swing space?

- Same transportation policy will be in place while the school is in swing space: if a student lives a mile or more from their school, they are eligible for yellow bus transportation
- Students who currently live less than a mile from the current Kennedy facility but more than a mile from the Hopkins facility will be eligible for transportation

Q5: Does the Hopkins building have outdoor space?

- Yes, the school has an athletic field immediately adjacent to the school
- Additionally, the district plans to add in a fenced in play area for the school's earliest learners

Co-location at Hopkins Middle School

District is taking several steps to support a safe and successful co-location

Separate staff members and leadership teams

- Each school will retain their staff and leadership teams

Separate start and end times

- Start and end times will continue as is: Kennedy - 9:05-3:25pm; Hopkins – 7:45-2:30pm

Separate spaces

- Kennedy will primarily be using the basement, first, and second floor, with Hopkins using the third floor
- While start/end times are staggered, the school has the ability to use separate entrances and stairwells
- Administrative teams will share office space on the first floor

Recreation Center

PPSD, City of Providence, and City Council working closely on recreation center plans

- Construction plan will include improvements to the gym and recreation center
- As we are assessing building demolition and construction timelines, we believe that the recreation center may be offline for use as early as September 2025 and no later than January 2026
 - Exact timing will be based on construction timeline/deadlines, financial impacts to later demolition, and community feedback
- When the building is offline, one option under consideration is having recreation center staff members at Hopkins to support after school programming
 - We are still assessing the feasibility of this and other options, and welcome parent input.

Swing Space Scope

Swing space scope will be further refined in the coming weeks

Improvements will be done to the building to prepare it for swing space including:

- Repairs to ceilings and floors in classrooms and hallways
- Improvements to restrooms to ensure they are age appropriate
- Improvements for accessibility on the basement level
- Exterior improvements including a fenced in play space for the school's earliest learners and pavement and sidewalk repairs.



ZONE R-1

BUILDING SETBACK (TYP.)

EATON STREET

PLAY AREA

ZONE R-1

CLOSE EXISTING DRIVEWAY OPENING

PROPOSED ROBERT F. KENNEDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BUS ZONE PICK-UP/DROP-OFF

EXTEND PARENT DROP-OFF AREA

ZONE C-1

ZONE R-1

ZONE PS

PLAY AREA

PROPOSED CURB CUT

STAFF/VISITOR PARKING AREA (50 SPACES)

ZONE R-P

ZONE OS

PROVIDENCE FIRE ENGINE #23

(Rte. 44)

ZONE R-1

ACADEMY AVENUE

ACADEMY AVENUE

ACADEMY AVENUE

ACADEMY AVENUE

ACADEMY AVENUE

ACADEMY AVENUE

NELSON STREET

JASTRAM STREET

JASTRAM STREET

JASTRAM STREET

JASTRAM STREET

JASTRAM STREET

JASTRAM STREET

SHARON STREET

SHARON STREET

SHARON STREET

SHARON STREET

SHARON STREET

COLLEGE STREET

APRIL STREET

STREET

RFK

Visioning Workshops

February-June

1. Visioning Review
 - a. Audience: District/School Leadership/Architects/Contractor
2. School Tours: D'Abate/Spaziano ES/Narducci
 - a. Audience: District/School leadership/architects/parents/community
3. Visioning 1
 - a. Audience: District/School Leadership/Architects/Contractor
4. Workshop 1
 - a. Audience: District/School Leadership/Architects/Contractor/Staff
5. Visioning 2
 - a. District/School Leadership/Architects/Contractor
6. Workshop 2
 - a. District/School Leadership/Architects/Contractor/Parents/Community

Questions?

