

Chester Lewis Building Update

Board of Education • December 1, 2025

***EVERY STUDENT
FUTURE READY***

Background

- Structural issues at East and North High prompted routine structural investigations at other district buildings.
- The Chester Lewis building is almost 75 years old.
- Location of Wichita Alternative High School, Early Childhood Outcomes & Pre-K team, and the Culturally Linguist Diverse Team – about 60 total staff.
- The building has around 115-130 students at any given time.



What Is Happening

- During a routine inspection of the building, engineers discovered a structural concern and a sewer issue.
- Work commenced on the sewer, but the structural concerns are not easily addressed and would be very expensive.

What Is Happening



WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS®

What Is Happening



What is Action is Being Taken

With safety to students and staff always steering our next steps, we will **vacate and close the Chester Lewis building** at the end of **this semester - December 2025.**

Where are We Going

Group	New Location	In New Location By
Chester Lew Alternative High School	Cleaveland Elementary	1/2/26
ECO/Pre-K Team	Joyce Focht Instructional Support Center	1/2/26
CLD Team	Jackson Elementary	1/2/26

Why So Quickly



Following a facilities assessment, there are structural issues that would be very time-intensive and expensive to repair.



Exercising an abundance of caution, the move now allows us to set the timeline instead of further reacting to any changing conditions.



Closing this building was part of the Facility Master Plan and we have other spaces available.

Safety and Building Monitoring



THE BUILDING REMAINS
SAFE FOR CURRENT USE.



ONGOING MONITORING
IS IN PLACE.



STAFF AND STUDENT
SAFETY OUR TOP
PRIORITY.

Next Steps

- **November 20:** Staff and parents were notified
- **November 24:** Boxes and Labels were delivered
- **November 20 – December 4:** Community outreach
- **December 1:** Presentation to BOE
- **December 22:** Deadline for boxes to be packed
- **December 26 – 31:** All items moved
- **January 2 – 4:** Set up in new building

Support for Staff



- Additional compensation for all employees impacted
- Addendum Days & extra hours for packing/unpacking
- Extra help available as needed

FAQs

1. Still will be the Chester Lewis Alternative High School Program
2. All students current receiving transportation will continue to receive services; newly eligible due to distance will receive services
3. No changes in Food Service
4. We will engage KSDE through the building closure process and report back next steps
5. Meetings will be held in Cleaveland and Chester Lewis neighborhoods

QUESTIONS