Transition Plan for the New Horace Mann Elementary School

Presented: December 2025

OVERVIEW

Over the next two years, Fargo Public Schools (FPS) will consolidate Horace Mann, Roosevelt, and Madison Elementary Schools into one new facility, scheduled to open in Fall 2028. This initiative aligns with the FPS Long Range Facility Plan, developed through an extensive community process and approved by the School Board in June 2024, which identified the need to address declining enrollment on the north side of Fargo and to modernize aging facilities. This plan outlines temporary placements for Horace Mann-Roosevelt K–2 and Madison 3-5 students during construction, identifies safety measures for the building site, shows which attendance areas will temporarily feed into each school, and overview of the new Horace Mann attendance boundary once the school opens. Roosevelt (grades 3-5) and Madison (grades K-2) will be paired schools for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

To prepare for this change, the Fargo Board of Education's Planning Committee directed administration to adjust attendance boundaries for northside elementary schools to align with anticipated enrollment and ensure northside schools are not over-enrollment capacity. These adjustments will apply only to elementary schools, with middle and high school boundaries remaining unchanged.

KEY STEPS & TIMELINE FOR THE NORTH SIDE CONSOLIDATION

Year 1: Planning and Preparation (2025–2026)

The journey toward the new elementary school officially began at the July 8 School Board meeting, when the board approved moving forward with the project. Over the course of the 2025-26 school year, administration will focus on building the foundation for a smooth transition.

Preparing the Leadership Team

FPS is taking deliberate steps to ensure the new school has strong leadership from day one.

- In **December 2025**, FPS will hire the lead principal who will guide the vision and hiring for the building and its programs.
- By **February 2026**, key administrative support staff will be hired or reassigned.
- In **March 2026**, the educational focus of the school will be shared—centered on personalized competency-based learning, the Marzano Academy model, and the High Reliability Schools framework—so families and staff know what to expect.
- **Spring of 2026**, Washington, Roosevelt and Madison will host an open house to welcome all students and families who will be attending in the fall.

Staffing for the New School

In spring 2026, the administration will reach out to staff at Madison, Roosevelt, and Horace Mann to learn their interest in joining the new school. If a person isn't placed or hired for a position at Madison, Washington, or Roosevelt, their preferred grade levels and other schools they'd like to serve will be sought. While specific placements can't be guaranteed, this input will help guide staffing decisions. More information on staffing will be provided once the lead principal is hired.

Temporary Relocation of Horace Mann (K-2), Madison (3-5) Students, and Staff

Because construction will require closing the current Horace Mann building, staff will be reassigned within the district in **February 2026** using our regular placement process. Each year, the district reviews the number of classroom sections needed at each school and adjusts staff accordingly.

During the spring of 2026, Madison, Roosevelt, and Washington will each host a welcome night for families who will be attending in the fall of 2026.

Years 2 & 3: School Relocations (Fall 2026 & Fall 2027)

While this project is underway, temporary and permanent changes to where students attend school will be made. These adjustments will keep learning environments safe, supportive, and consistent for every student until the new school opens in Fall 2028.

Student Placements During Construction

- The new attendance boundaries will take effect in Fall 2026.
    - Attendance boundaries were approved by the Board of Education on November 12, 2025.
        - Washington Elementary School will welcome K–5 students who live between 15th Avenue North and 12th Avenue North.
- Horace Mann will close for construction. Students who live within the Horace Mann/Roosevelt/Madison boundaries will attend a **split campus**:
    - **Roosevelt Elementary** will serve all **grades 3–5** from both the Madison and HMR areas.
    - **Madison Elementary** will serve all **grades K–2** from those same areas.
    - Students who will attend the split campus of Roosevelt/Madison will attend the new school in the fall of 2028.
- Students will remain in these schools until Fall 2028 to avoid multiple moves during the transition.

Bus Transportation for Eligible Students

- Fargo Public Schools will use our standard busing process to update and adjust routes for all students who qualify for transportation services. Updated bus routes will be available on the district's public website the week before school begins, along with estimated pick-up and drop-off times.
- Elementary students who are eligible for bus transportation will be notified by their assigned school of their route information. Transportation is provided only for students who meet this distance requirement and reside within the attendance boundaries set by the district. Pick-up and drop-off locations will be determined based on these boundaries to ensure consistency and safety for all riders.

School Capacity Changes

To accommodate these shifts:

- **Madison Elementary** will serve K-2 students and expand from seven sections to nine sections, with approximately:
    - Kindergarten: 54 students
    - Grade 1: 55 students
    - Grade 2: 48 students
    - Total Served: Around 157 students

- **Roosevelt Elementary** will serve grades 3-5 and expand from nine sections to eleven sections, with approximately:
    - 3rd graders: 52 students
    - 4th graders: 64 students
    - 5th graders: 88 students
    - Total Served: Around 204 students

- **Washington Elementary** will serve grades K-5 and expand from 15 sections to 17–19 sections with the boundary adjustment from 15th Ave. N to 12th Ave. N.
    - Kindergarten: 55 students
    - Grade 1: 57 students
    - Grade 2: 59 students

- 3rd graders: 52 students
- 4th graders: 69 students
- 5th graders: 77 students
- Total Served: Around 369 students

Grandfathering/Petitioning Process

School boundaries are established regarding student population within each school, and students are expected to enroll at the school assigned to their residential area. However, it is recommended that students currently (2025-26 school year) enrolled at Horace Mann and Roosevelt Elementary Schools in grades 2-4, who are affected by the attendance boundary change, be permitted to complete the next two years of their education at their current school, provided they submit a grandfathering petition through the established petition process. Families of students who attend a school via the petition process will be responsible for providing their own transportation to and from school. The grandfathering petition forms for the 2026-27 school year will be collected until the deadline of April 1, 2026. Petitions can be turned in to the principal of the requested school. All other initial petitions are due by August 1 of the fall you plan to attend. Petition forms are posted online at https://www.fargo.k12.nd.us/registration/open-enrollmentpetition-process.

Leadership During the Transition

In the second semester of the 2027–2028 school year, the selected lead principal for the school will take on a special assignment—working closely with staff, students, and families to ensure a smooth opening in Fall 2028.

Year 4: Opening of the New School (Fall 2028)

- The **new Horace Mann Elementary School** opens.

Next Steps & Communication:

- Ongoing communication will be provided to families, students, and staff as new details become available, or visit the FPS website for news on the new northside elementary: https://www.fargo.k12.nd.us/newschool
- FPS will work closely with all vendors in charge of the construction project on the Horace Mann site to ensure updates are communicated and that the site is safe and secure through the construction phases.
- Questions and feedback are encouraged to ensure a smooth transition for everyone affected.

ELEMENTARY BOUNDARIES BEGINNING IN THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

