

Building Our Future: Lincoln-Irving and Willard Schools Unite for 2027 Opening

The Moline-Coal Valley School District is taking an exciting step forward in shaping the future of elementary education with the upcoming opening of the new combined Lincoln-Irving and Willard Elementary School in fall of 2027. This project represents the district's continued investment in modern learning spaces, collaboration, and community pride.

The roadmap to opening day outlines several key milestones over the next two years. This school year marks the final year of learning at the current Lincoln-Irving building. In spring of 2026, Lincoln-Irving staff and students will temporarily relocate to the Western Illinois University–Quad Cities campus on River Drive, while major construction and renovation take place at their current school building. During the 2026–2027 school year, thanks to the district's proud partnership with MetroLINK and Western Illinois QC Campus, Lincoln-Irving students will have a safe and engaging learning environment to continue their growth and development, while crews work to build a modern addition and fully renovate the existing Lincoln-Irving School. In May 2027, Willard Elementary, over 125 years old, will finally retire. The journey is slated to culminate in August of 2027, when the new combined elementary school opens its doors—uniting the Lincoln-Irving and Willard communities into one bright new beginning.

Lastly, one of the most unique milestones in this journey will be selecting the new school's name and mascot—symbols that will honor our shared past while inspiring future generations. The naming and mascot selection process, guided by a committee of stakeholders including teachers, staff, parents, community members, and Board of Education members, will run through December. The committee has already gathered a large list of initial names and mascot nominations from the community and has synthesized a select group of finalists meeting all of the required criteria. The finalist list is currently available to all stakeholders in the form of a multiple-choice survey. Please check out the QR code to cast your vote as the survey will be closing soon!

This project reflects a vision built on community, inclusion, and opportunity. Stay engaged and follow progress updates under the "Recent News" section at www.molineschools.org.