

Creating “An Improved” Environment through Lincoln-Irving Expansion

The Moline-Coal Valley School District has been updating its long-range facility improvement plans over the past several years and taking action to complete various impactful projects across our learning community. This spring, the Board of Education identified its next project which includes the eventual retirement of Willard Elementary along with an expansion of Lincoln-Irving Elementary.

Willard is the District’s oldest elementary school. It was constructed in 1899 and is now 124 years old. It has the smallest enrollment at approximately 180 students and is not ADA accessible. While it has served district students well for many decades, the challenges due to the age of the building result in an environment that no longer meets current learning standards. Lincoln-Irving Elementary is in a neighboring school boundary of Willard and has available land around the school for expansion. With that, the Board of Education has made a long-term investment in the learning environments for current and future students of both Willard and Lincoln-Irving, along with their staff and families.

The Board’s plan consists of a brand new addition on to Lincoln-Irving, combining Willard with Lincoln-Irving, and then updating the existing Lincoln-Irving building to match the new addition. This move will create a large 4-5 section flagship elementary school, similar to Hamilton, which will create a modern learning environment that more effectively meets the needs of 21st century learners. The design and construction phases are projected to take place over the next four academic years. With that projected timeline, in the fall of 2027, Willard students would begin attending the newly renovated and expanded Lincoln-Irving and the Willard school building, constructed in 1899, will finally be retired.

This timeline ensures that the project will be cost-neutral for tax-payers and the goal will be to maintain the current staffing and program levels once the two schools have merged. We look forward to engaging with students, families, and staff in the design process so that together, we can create a wonderful new learning environment for generations of students to come.