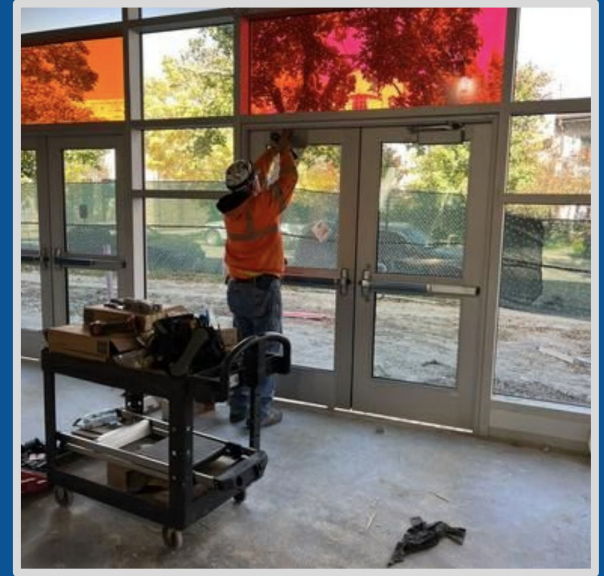


Board Update: Foster School

November 3, 2025



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes



Foster School

District 65 is thrilled to return a neighborhood school to the Fifth Ward community. We broke ground on the new state-of-the-art school, with the capacity to serve approximately 600 students in kindergarten through fifth grade, in summer 2024!

The Board approved **Foster School** as the new school's name in July 2024. The school's mascot will be the **phoenix**. Community input for the school name included two community surveys as well as two school name review sessions with the Foster Senior Club and Ms. JoAnn's class of 50+ third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Family Focus. We are excited to foster a community of learners and leaders in the Fifth Ward!

Since the closing of the original Foster School in 1979, students who reside in the Fifth Ward consequently experienced a disproportionate burden including the loss of a neighborhood school, increased busing and accompanying environmental hazards, reduced sense of community, and lack of access to before and after school programming not shared by other students who had access to walkable neighborhood schools.

As part of our student assignment planning process, the new Fifth Ward School was approved by the School Board in March 2022. However, as a result of budgetary concerns for the cost of a larger K-8 school, the decision was made by the Board in January 2024 to pivot to a smaller K-5 design. We anticipate the opening of the historic new school for the 2026-2027 school year. The sections on this page will stay updated as more information becomes available.



Receive project and construction updates for Foster School, including the monthly newsletter!

Sign up (English)

Sign up (Spanish)

Budget At-A-Glance

Monthly financial dashboard for Foster School's construction

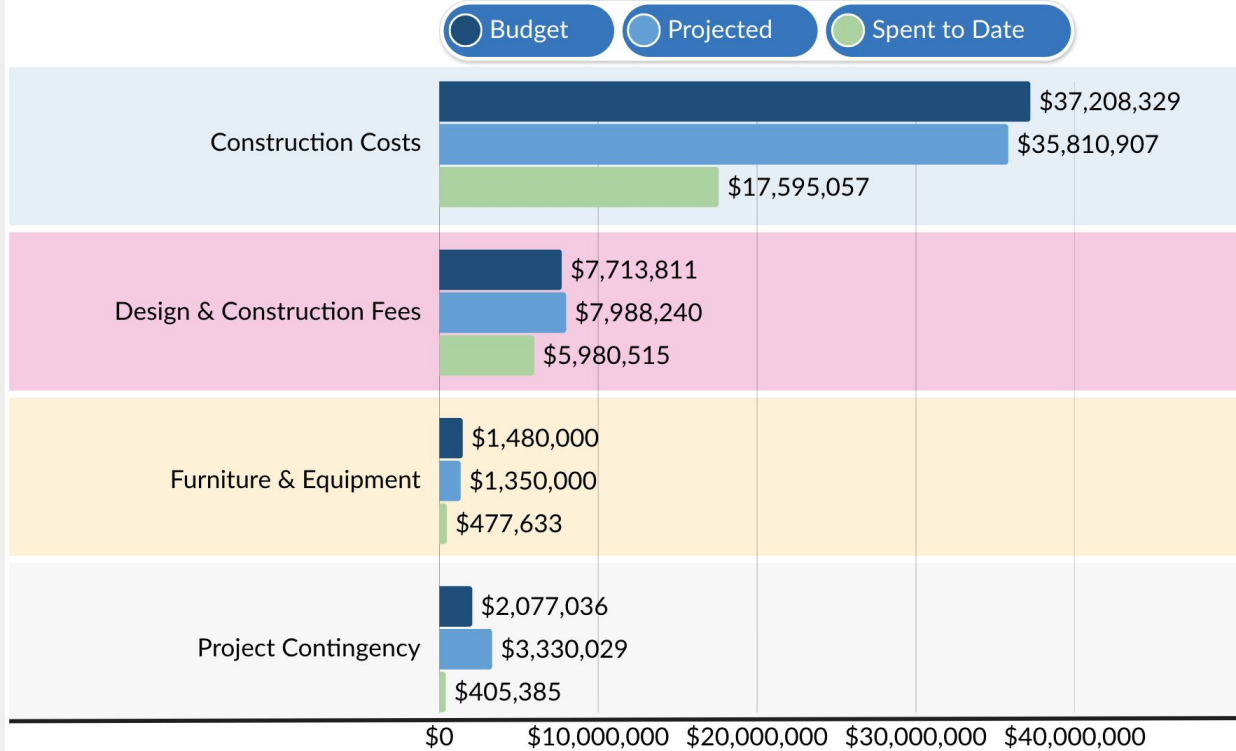


Financial Update



Monthly Budget Update

Through September 30, 2025

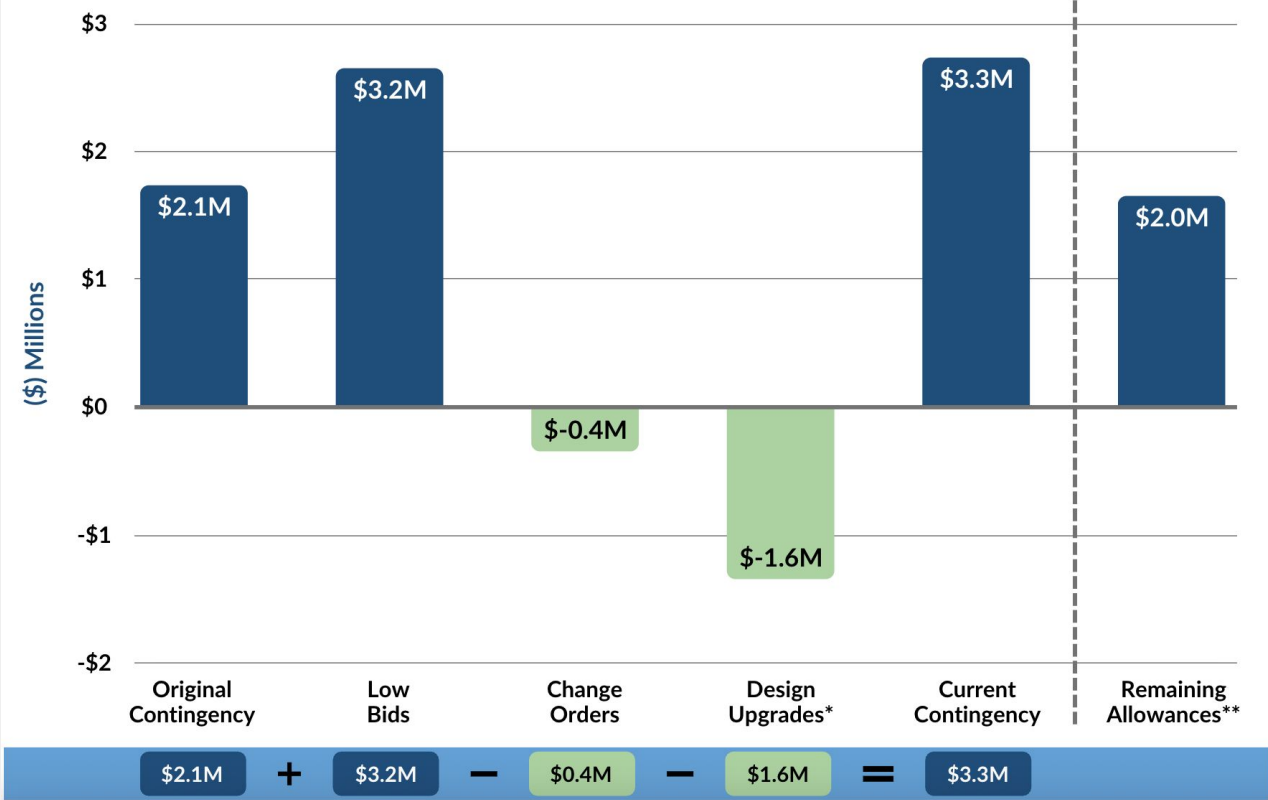


Financial Update



Project Contingency Tracker

September 30, 2025



Financial Update



Budget Table

September 30, 2025

	BUDGET	PROJECTED	SPENT TO DATE	% OF BUDGET	UPDATE
CONSTRUCTION COSTS	\$37,208,329	\$35,810,907	\$17,595,057	47.3%	Twelve of the 22 (55%) project months are complete
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION FEES	\$7,713,811	\$7,988,240	\$5,980,515	77.5%	Includes design fees paid for the former K-8 planned school
FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	\$1,480,000	\$1,350,000	\$477,633	32.3%	Furniture has been ordered and is in storage
PROJECT CONTINGENCY	\$2,077,036	\$3,330,029	\$405,385	19.5%	Low bids have offset the 4 change orders totaling \$405,385
TOTAL	\$48,479,176	\$48,479,176	\$24,458,590	50.5%	

Financial Update



Foster School: October 31, 2025

BP	Bid Package Description	BUDGET	PROJECTED	ACTUAL	% Complete
Bid Group 1					
1	Site Clearing, Demolitions, Enabling Work	\$ 437,300	\$ 555,004	\$ 555,004	100%
2	Ground Improvements	\$ 733,950	\$ 699,000	\$ 699,000	100%
Bid Group 2					
3 - 6	Pre-Cast, Steel, Concrete, Excavations	\$ 8,730,433	\$ 8,972,014	\$ 8,046,533	90%
Bid Group 3					
7-10, 14-17	Shell, MEP's, Interior Finishes	\$ 24,716,288	\$ 21,256,128	\$ 10,912,677	51%
Bid Group 4					
11-12	Kitchen Equipment & Flooring	\$ 1,319,551	\$ 2,087,963	\$ 132,703	6%
Bid Group 5					
18 - 23	Playground, Landscaping, Pavement	\$ 1,270,807	\$ 1,835,364	\$ -	0%
Construction Contingency		\$ 2,077,036	\$ 3,705,263	--	--
Sub-Total Construction Cost:		\$ 39,285,365	\$ 39,110,736	\$ 20,345,917	58%

Financial Update



Foster School: October 31, 2025

	BUDGET	PROJECTED	ACTUAL	% Complete
General Requirements	\$ 2,039,409	\$ 1,985,472	\$ 1,302,832	66%
Construction Management Fee (3%)	\$ 1,174,575	\$ 1,156,586	\$ 717,681	62%
TOTAL Construction Cost:	\$ 42,499,349	\$ 42,252,794	\$ 22,366,430	53%
SOFT COSTS/OTHER FEES & REIMBURSABLES:				
Design Fees (Architectural/MEP/Structural/CE/Kitchen)	\$ 4,219,827	\$ 4,261,827	\$ 3,768,385	89%
Leed Commissioning/USGBC Fees	\$ 80,000	\$ 85,200	\$ 25,200	30%
FF&E	\$ 980,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 480,633	49%
Technology Equipment Allowance	\$ 500,000	\$ 450,000	\$ -	0%
Owner's Representative Fees		\$ 304,355	\$ 166,001	55%
Testing & Other Reimbursables	\$ 200,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 89,496	45%
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$ 48,479,176	\$ 48,479,176	\$ 26,896,145	55%

Financial Update



Remaining Construction Work: **\$15,060,000 (42.5%)**

● General Trades	67%	● Sidewalks/Curbs	100%
● Paint	68%	● Landscaping	100%
● Plumbing	40%	● Fencing	100%
● Electrical	71%	● Site Work	100%
● Flooring	93%	● Mixed Metals	100%
● Kitchen Equipment	100%	● Moving	100%
● Playground	100%	● Safe Walk Routes	100%