

Date: May 12, 2026
To: Maine Department of Education
From: The governing body of the administrative unit of RSU63

RE: Lack of Need and Proposed Closure of the Eddington Elementary School

Executive Summary

The Eddington Elementary School has been deemed unnecessary due to declining enrollment in the district and unprofitable to maintain for the district by the governing body of the administrative unit of RSU63.

This report outlines the projected lack of need for the current educational services offered by the RSU63, a PreK-8 school district, leading to the proposed closure of the Eddington Elementary School building on July 1, 2027. It includes an analysis of projected student enrollment over the next five years, educational programming, transportation services, and the future disposition of the building, among other information on the topic.

Current Enrollment by School:

Eddington Elementary	Prek-1	99
Holden Elementary	2-4	155
Holbrook Middle	5-8	170

**slightly lower than the October count*

A. PROJECTION OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN THE AFFECTED AREA OVER THE NEXT 5 SCHOOL YEARS, INCLUDING A PROJECTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WHICH THEY WILL NEED; [PL 1983, C. 422, §17 (NEW).]

The gradual decline in enrollment reflects demographic trends within the district, indicating a diminishing student population that does not support the operational costs of maintaining three schools.

Below is the projected and actual enrollment districtwide over the past 5 years as well as projections for the next 5 years.

Student Enrollment and Future Projections

Past Years	Projected	Actuals
2020-2021	489	445
2021-2022	487	430
2022-2023	483	450
2023-2024	485	436
2024-2025	484	440
2025-2026	482	428

Projections based on state 1% average decline and district's 2.75% average decline

	1% decline	2.75% decline
2026-2027	424	416
2027-2028	420	405
2028-2029	416	393
2029-2030	412	383
2030-2031	408	372

The two remaining schools: Holden Elementary and Holbrook Middle, will shift the grades they serve and take on additional grade levels. Holden will be PreK-2 and Holbrook, grades 3-8. We have the space and the resources to accommodate all classrooms and services within the two buildings, with additional space should we need it. (See Appendix A, Grade Level Assignments)

B. MANNER IN WHICH THE CONTINUATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE AFFECTED STUDENTS WILL BE PROVIDED; [PL 1983, C. 422, §17 (NEW).]

Educational Programming Needs

Primary Educational Programs

Grades K-8: Core subjects (Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies) and Specials (Art, Music, Library, Guidance, and Physical Education)

As the student populations continues to decline, the programming to meet the needs of all learners adjusts as necessary while maintaining adherence to the Maine Learning Results (MLR) in English Language Arts, Health Education, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies, and Specials

Our PreK and K students explore concepts through hands-on activities with opportunities to explore and interact with learning materials. Our teachers are beginning to align to the Play Lab model through the Maine Department of Education (DOE) focusing on play-based strategies.

We use the HMH Into Reading, K-6 and HMH Into Literature for ELA across the district, providing a clear scope and sequence and pacing for all instruction from basic literacy skills to in depth reading strategies for comprehension and analytical learning skills.

IReady is our district's K-8 math program and students are able to access assignments, learning games, and practice time based on their diagnostic level. This data informs instruction and allows teachers to target instruction to learner need.

Our science program at the middle school is through the University of Maine's RISE program and keeps students learning with enthusiasm with interactive and challenging lessons.

Our social studies program uses a variety of materials and resources including Scholastic Magazine and IXL. Students learn about civics, government, geography and explore events from history to better understand their community and the world they live in.

We have a robust specials program with art, music, physical education, library and guidance, all of which will continue more efficiently and effectively when we consolidate to two schools. This will allow for better utilization of staff and resources to best provide this important learning aspects to all students.

We incorporate technology into academic programs and instruction with an approach to guide students safely and age appropriately, to empower all students to foster an understanding technology and digital platforms within their learning path.

C. EFFECTIVE DATE ON WHICH THE CLOSING WILL TAKE PLACE; [PL 1983, C. 422, §17 (NEW).]

We are proposing to close the Eddington Elementary School July 1, 2027.

D. PROJECTION OF ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION OR OTHER RELATED SERVICES; [PL 1983, C 422, §17 (NEW).]

Transportation Impact Summary with Eddington School Closure

Current System (All 3 Schools Open)

- Total Routes: 14
- Annual Mileage: 2,015 miles/week equivalent system load
- Weekly Fuel Cost Estimate: \$1,376
- Annual Fuel Cost Estimate: \$79,607

With Eddington School Closed

1. Route Reduction

Routes Reduced: 14 → 12 routes

- = 1 High School route PM only
- = 1 Elementary route Both AM and PM

14% reduction in total routes

2. Mileage Reduction

- System Mileage: 2,015 → 1,653
- Reduction: 362 miles

18% reduction in total system mileage

3. Fuel Cost Savings

- Weekly Fuel Cost: \$1,376 → \$972
- Weekly Savings: \$404
- Annual Fuel Cost: \$79,607 → \$57,865
- Annual Savings: \$21,742

27% reduction in fuel costs

4. Student Ride Time (Minutes per Trip)

Examples from route analysis:

- Bus A (AM): 62 → 62 minutes (no increase)
- Bus B (AM): 63 → 63 minutes (stable)
- Bus L (PM): 70 → 60 minutes (Drop)
- Bus R (PM): 55 → 45 minutes (Drop)

No increases in ride time, and routes remain within ~45-to-64-minute range

5. Capacity & Efficiency

- Total Students Transported: ~263 students
- System Capacity: 822 seats
- Utilization Rate: 31%

Operational Impact (By the Numbers)

- 2 routes eliminated
- 362 fewer miles driven
- \$21,742 annual fuel savings
- 0 increase in ride times

Closing Eddington School results to transportation:

- Fewer buses on the road
- Lower costs
- Efficient use of existing capacity
- Stable student ride times

Support Services for Students with IEPs

As part of the proposed closure of the Eddington School, the district has carefully considered the impact on all students, including those eligible for special education services. RSU 63 is committed to ensuring continuity of services and full access to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for every student.

All students with IEPs will continue to receive services in alignment with their individualized plans, including specially designed instruction, related services, and accommodations. Placement decisions will remain student-centered and based on the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), ensuring that each student's needs are met in an appropriate and supportive setting.

The district has reviewed current programming, staffing, and resources to ensure that receiving schools are equipped to implement IEPs with fidelity. Special education staff will be strategically assigned to maintain consistency and support smooth transitions for students. Collaboration between general and special education staff will continue to be a priority to support inclusive practices and positive student outcomes.

In preparation for this transition, the district will communicate proactively with families, provide opportunities for team meetings as needed, and ensure that all records and services transfer seamlessly. RSU 63 remains committed to meeting all state and federal requirements and to supporting the academic, social, and emotional needs of every student throughout this process.

E. EXISTENCE OF ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING DEBT SERVICE, RELATED TO THE SCHOOL BUILDING ALONG WITH A RETIREMENT SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO MEET THE COMMITMENTS; [PL 1983, C. 422, §17 (NEW).]

RSU 63 acquired the Eddington Elementary School building as part of its commitment to providing quality education to the community. The history of this acquisition is tied closely to the evolution of educational needs in the region. Eddington Elementary School was originally established to serve the local population. Over the years, as the community grew, the school underwent expansions and renovations to accommodate more students.

In the early 2000s, there was a trend in Maine towards school consolidation to improve efficiency and resource allocation. This led to the formation of RSU63, which combined several smaller school districts. RSU63 acquired the Eddington Elementary School building around the time of the RSU's establishment in 2009, following the state's consolidation efforts. After acquiring the building, RSU63 invested in renovations to modernize the infrastructure and make it more conducive to learning, ensuring that it met current educational standards.

The only outstanding loan on the building is the following loan from the DOE and Maine Municipal Bond Bank School Revolving Renovation (SRRF) loan program:

Loan Purpose: Health, Safety and Compliance Repairs (IAQ) to Eddington School (up to \$796,500), Holbrook School (up to \$1,000,000), and Holden School (up to \$876,750)
Issue Date: December 30, 2020.

Loan Obligation: the loan is a zero interest loan with substantial forgiveness of principal under the SRRF program.

Original Principal: \$2,673,250.00 with \$1,304,278.00 forgiven, Net principal payable \$1,368,972

Allonge: According to the Maine Bond Bank, the allonge was completed 2/22/2024. The allonge reflects the portion of the original note advanced for renovations. According to the Maine Bond Bank, the allonge adjusted the total amount borrowed to \$2,649,724.58, including forgiveness of \$1,292,800.62, and thus a net principal payable of \$1,356,923.96.

Current principal payable as of 5/4/2026: \$675,880.26 (per Maine Bond Bank).

Retirement Date: 11/1/2030

Portion of Original Principal allocable to Eddington

School: $\$796,500 / \$2,673,250 = 29.8\%$ (based on DOE Eligibility Certificates)

Original Principal allocable to Eddington School: $\$1,368,972 \times 29.8\% = \$407,954$

Allonge Net Principal allocable to Eddington School: $\$1,356,923.96 \times 29.8\% = \$404,363.34$

Current principal payable that is allocable to Eddington School:
 $\$675,880.26 \times 29.8\% = \$201,412.32$.

Our legal counsel, Drummond Woodsum, has advised that because SRRF bonds are not issued as tax exempt bonds, there is no private activity bond or arbitrage regulations implicated if the financed building renovations become privately owned. Accordingly, the building may be transferred in accordance with state law.

Upon closure, the school board has no proposed further use of the building. The current intention of the school board is to promptly offer the building "as is" to the Town of Eddington. Pursuant to section 4103(3)(A), if the town accepts the building, the town must be liable for the 29.8% portion of the then outstanding debt allocable to the Eddington School (currently \$201,412.32). If the town does not accept the building, the board's intention will be to promptly sell the building on the open market in accordance with section 4103(4).

F. PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING; [PL 1983, C. 422, §17 (NEW).]

The Board will follow the required process regarding the future of the building. If there is interest, the school may donate the building back to the town for community use, such as recreational or community services.

We would also extend right of first refusal to any area charter school that may benefit from the use of the building.

If there is not an interest from the town or a charter school to acquire the building, we will consider the sale of the property. The school building will be assessed for market value and listed for sale.

G. FINANCIAL IMPACT OF CLOSING THE SCHOOL BUILDING; AND [PL 1983, C. 422, §17 (NEW).]

This closure will be a great strategic financial decision for RSU63, driven by declining student enrollment and aimed at aligning district resources with current and future district demand. The closure decision aims to strengthen the district's financial position while maintaining and enhancing the quality of education provided to our students.

From a financial standpoint, the closure will generate recurring cost savings. And the district is projected to save approximately \$670,000 annually by eliminating some cost avenues: such as facility-related expenses, including maintenance, custodial, and some administrative overhead. Additional savings will be realized through transportation efficiencies, such as bus routes, fuel consumption, and operational times, which will be significantly optimized.

Finally, the Eddington school closure represents a fiscally reasonable solution. It reduces unnecessary expenses, improves operational efficiency and productivity, and allows RSU 63 to better understand and redirect resources towards enhancing academic and educational outcomes. By taking this proactive step, the district ensures long-term financial sustainability while continuing to prioritize the success and well-being of its students.

H. STATEMENT OF REASONS WHY THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS BEING CLOSED. [PL 1983, C. 422,

Rationale for Closure

The school has been deemed unnecessary and financially unfeasible given the current district enrollment and the trend in declining enrollment over the past decade. Maintaining the building incurs significant costs that cannot be justified with the declining student population, and the associated funds would be better spent on direct student learning.

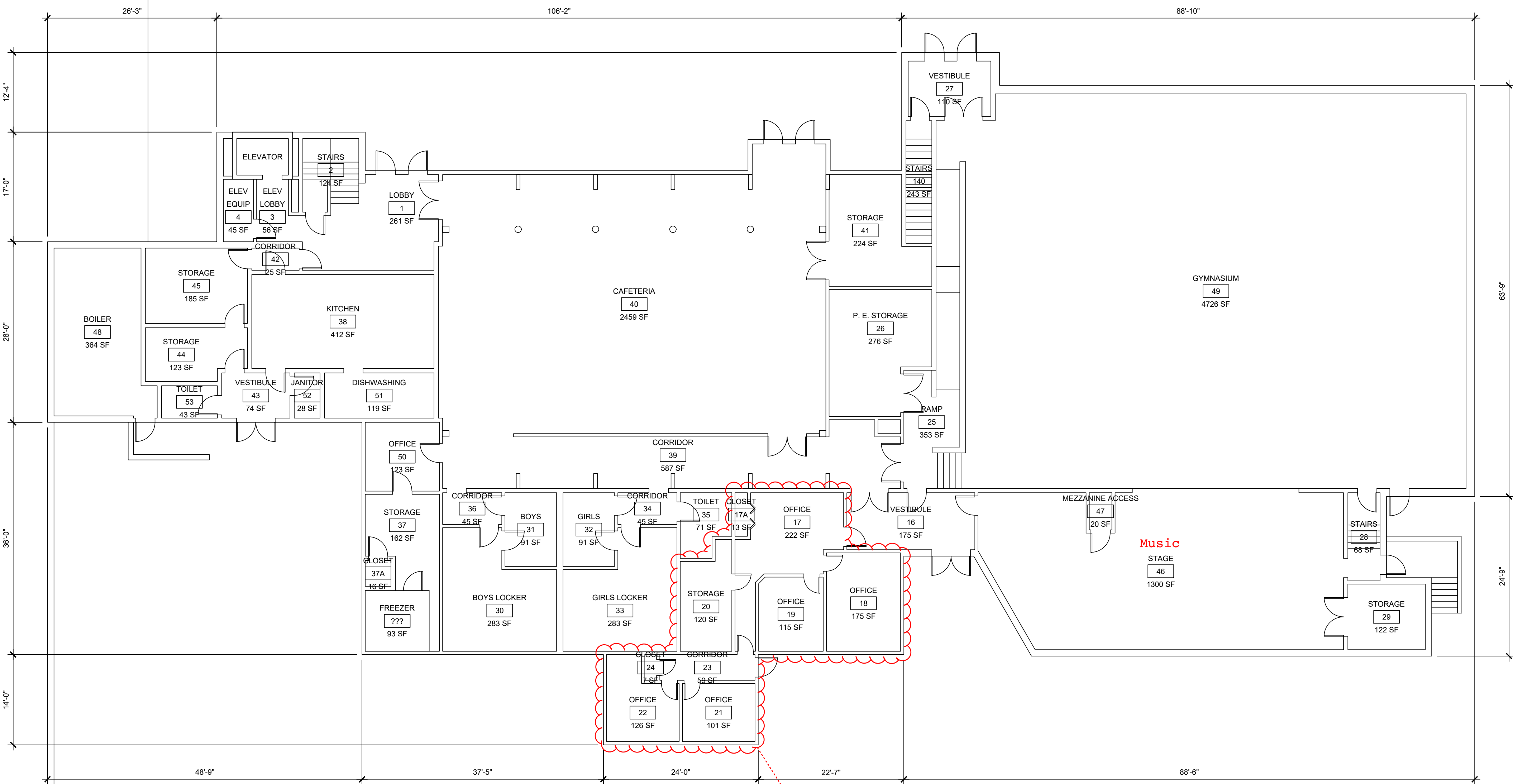
Conclusion

The proposed closure of the RSU 63 school building is a necessary step to align educational services with community needs and fiscal responsibility. With the projected

decline in student enrollment, it is imperative to take action to ensure that resources are allocated effectively and that RSU63 can continue to provide academic excellence to students across the district. The closing of the Eddington School will ensure that we do not have to cut programs and services that are proven effective to students. The report outlines the necessary steps and considerations in closing the building while continuing to provide quality education to all students.

We appreciate your consideration of this report and look forward to your guidance on the next steps.

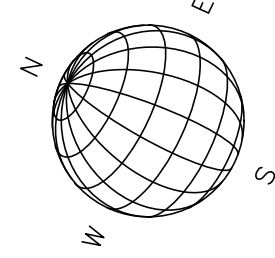
Appendix A



Area could be reconfigured if
needs changed

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN LOWER LEVEL
3/32" = 1'-0" TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE LOWER LEVEL = 13877 SF

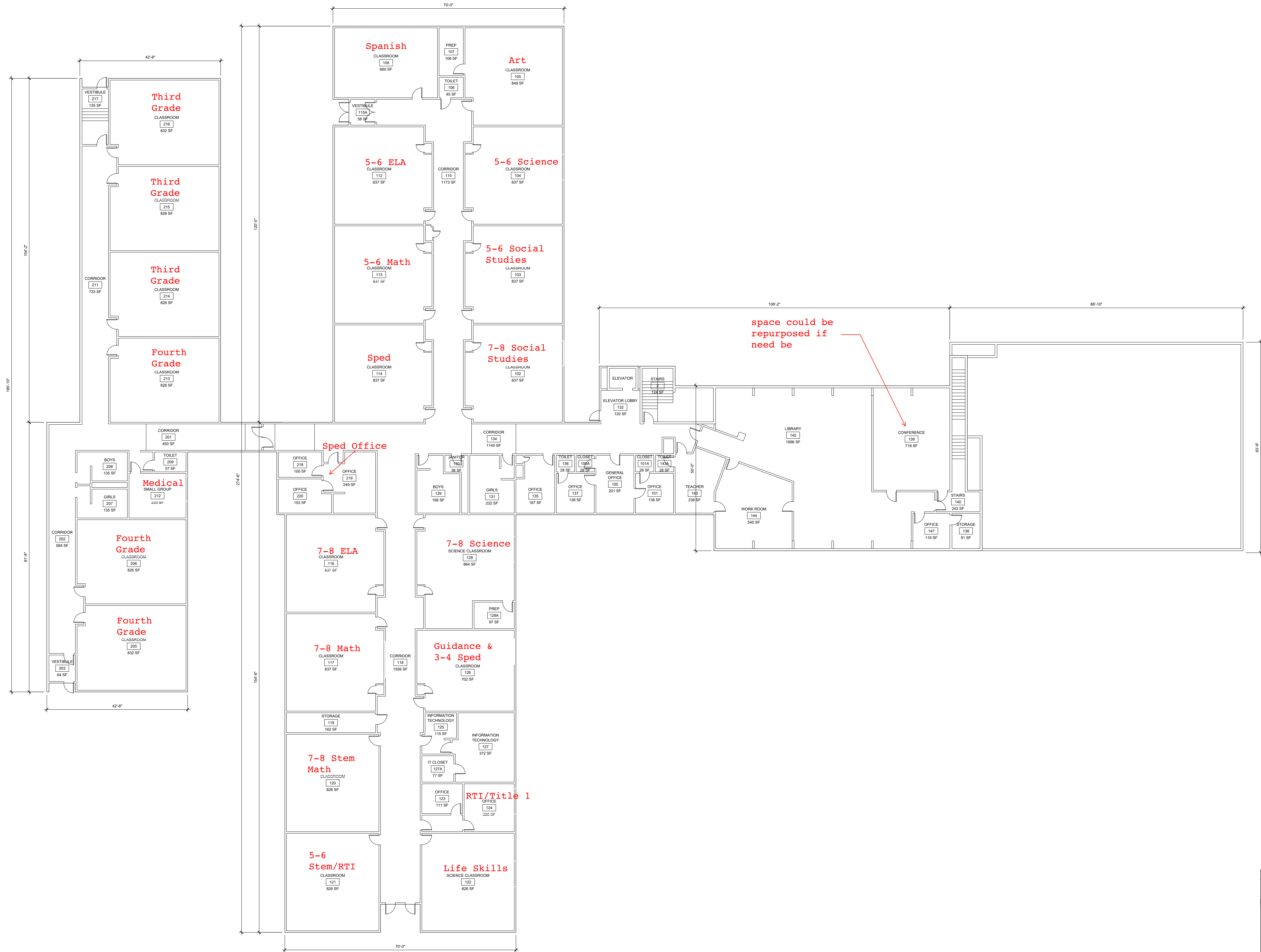
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DRAWING ISSUE STATUS				
ISSUED FOR REVIEW				
		HALEY WARD		
WWW.HALEYWARD.COM		One Merchants Plaza, Suite 701 Bangor, Maine 04401 207.989.4824		
PROJECT				
HOLBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLDEN, MAINE				
TITLE				
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN LOWER LEVEL				
DATE		SCALE		
2025/12/16		AS NOTED		
DRAWN BY		DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	
HJB		---	---	
PROJECT NO.		10229-004		
DRAWING NO.			REV	
A101				



Appendix A

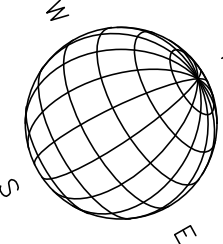
NOTE: This markup represents one possible layout scenario. It is not intended to be prescriptive, rather to show the various rooms required.

- Key Points:
- 1)This assumes Grades 3-8 would be in Holbrook
 - 2)No specials require carts.



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN UPPER LEVEL
302' x 114' TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE UPPER LEVEL = 33442 SF

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK
DRAWING ISSUE STATUS				
ISSUED FOR REVIEW				
 HALEY WARD One Merchants Plaza, Suite 701 Bangor, Maine 04401 207.989.4824				
PROJECT				
HOLBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL HOLDEN, MAINE				
TITLE				
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN UPPER LEVEL				
DATE		SCALE		
2025/12/16		AS NOTED		
DRAWN BY		DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	
HJB		—	—	
PROJECT NO.				
10229-004				
DRAWING NO.			REV	
A102				

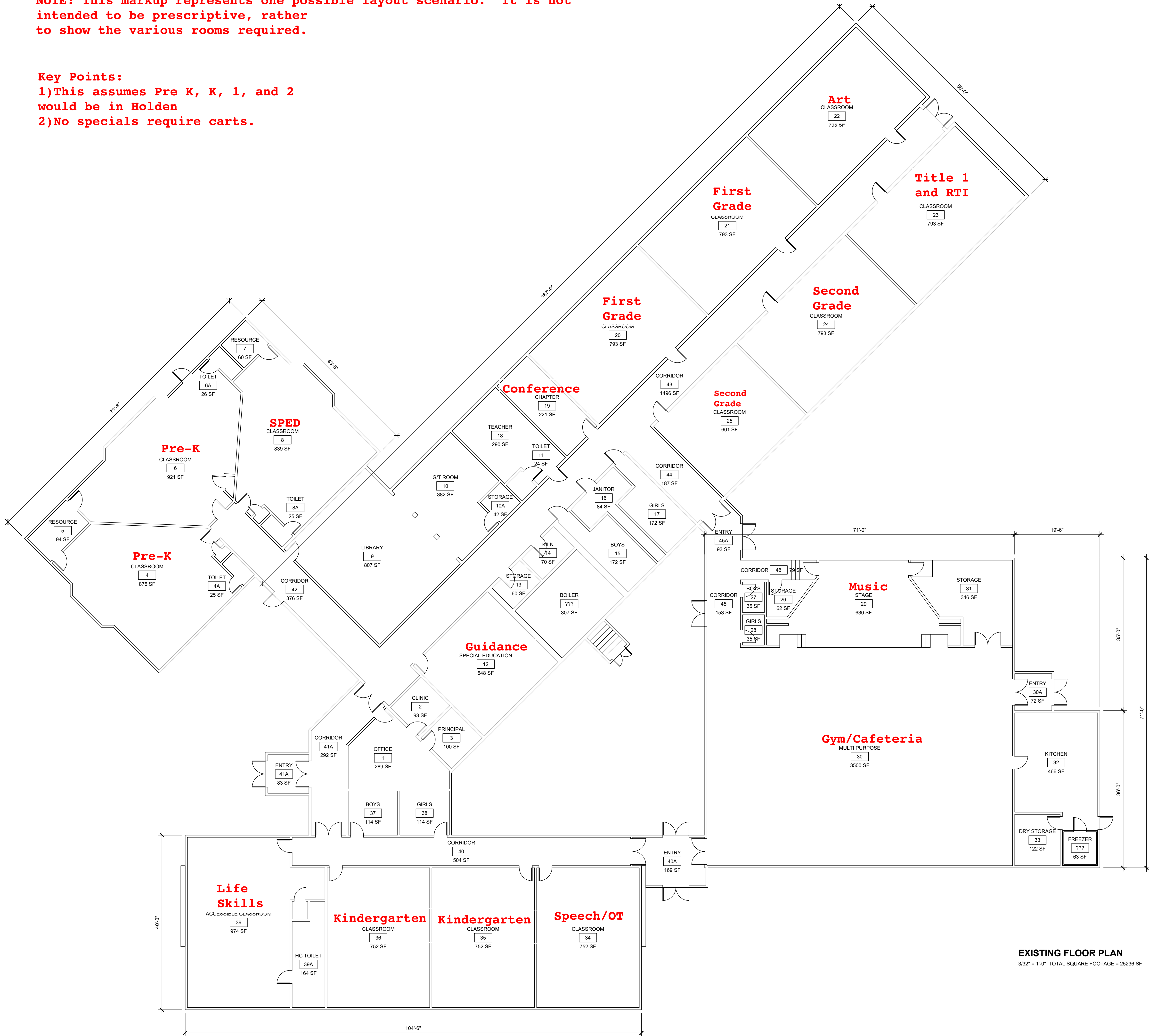


NOTE: This markup represents one possible layout scenario. It is not intended to be prescriptive, rather to show the various rooms required.

Key Points:

- 1)This assumes Pre K, K, 1, and 2 would be in Holden
- 2)No specials require carts.

Appendix A



EXISTING FLOOR PLAN
3/32" = 1'-0" TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE = 25236 SF

REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK.
DRAWING ISSUE STATUS				
ISSUED FOR REVIEW				
 HALEY WARD ENGINEERING ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYING One Merchants Plaza, Suite 701 Bangor, Maine 04401 207.989.4824				
PROJECT				
HOLDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOLDEN, MAINE				
TITLE				
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN				
DATE		SCALE		
2025/12/08		AS NOTED		
DRAWN BY		DESIGNED BY		CHECKED BY
RB		---		---
PROJECT No.				
10229.004				
DRAWING No.				REV.
A101				