



Community Information Session

Discussion about Board Resolution Proposal

September 29, 2026

Plan for this evening

1. Welcome and fill out comment cards
2. Quick review of timeline and recommendations
3. Review answers to common questions so far
4. Q&A with Dr. Johnson and cabinet members



Update on September 21 Proposal to the TPS Board of Education





ABOUT OUR DISTRICT

MISSION

Our students lead through literacy, are empowered through experience, and contribute to their community.

VISION

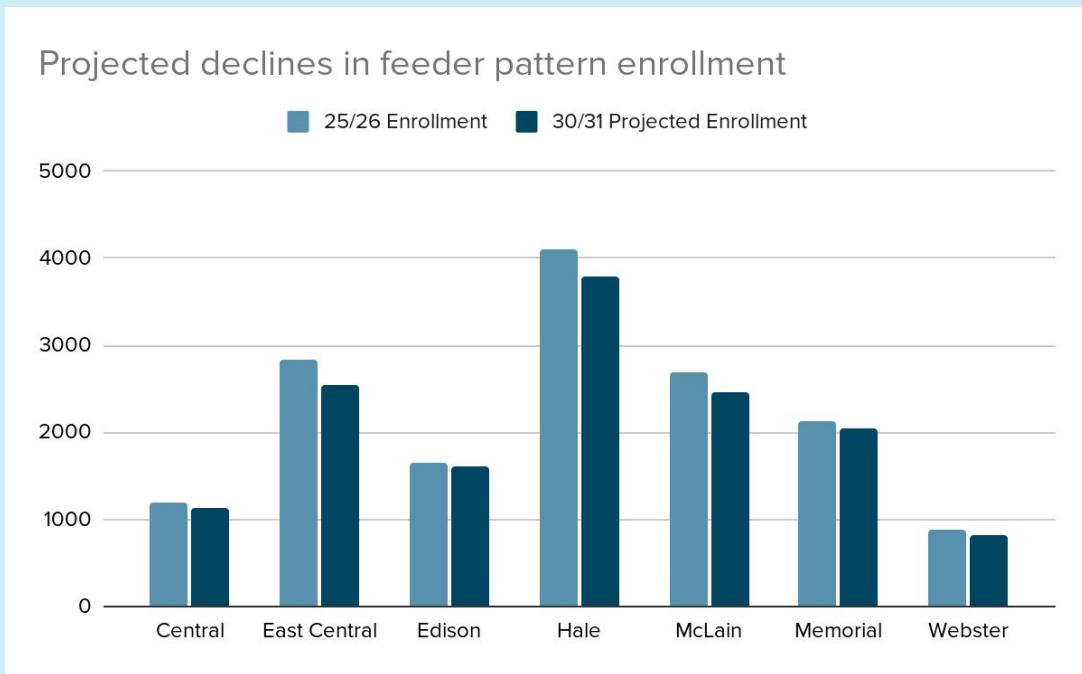
We honor the diversity, creativity, and passion of our students, elevating every student to be designers of their destiny.

The July 27 Board Resolution requires that we bring forward recommendations by October 19 for financial savings of at least \$12 million while prioritizing access to opportunities for students across the district.

Based on current trends, we are predicting declines in enrollment in every feeder pattern.

This leads to a projected decline in funding and necessary budget reductions now and in future years.

Continued declining enrollment



We've stated across our community sessions that it is important to us to make critical investments in the student experience.



Improved student experiences



Ensure dedicated Art, Music, and PE teachers at every elementary school



Increase the number of students with access to a highly qualified teacher



Maximize every dollar for every student - including stronger support to sites



Expand access to in-demand programs in Tulsa Public Schools

With all of these factors and community feedback considered, we are proposing school closures as the primary method to meet the \$12 million identified in the Board Resolution.



**Proposal
details**

Savings	Identified Action
\$11.1 million	Closing 14 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, and 1 alternative program
\$1.5 million	Directive to central office department leaders to identify \$1.5 million in additional non-salary or salary savings for the upcoming fiscal year by: - Continued movement of eligible items out of the general fund - Reduced salary costs (primarily through employee turnover) - Reduced non-salary costs by department leaders

We are proposing 14 elementary, 2 middle, and 1 alternative site for closure or consolidation.

Elementary Site Closures	Secondary Site Closures	Other Building Changes
Anderson Elementary Bell Elementary Dolores Huerta Elementary Greenwood Leadership Academy Hoover Elementary Kerr Elementary Key Elementary Marshall Elementary Mitchell Elementary Peary Elementary Robertson Elementary Sequoyah Elementary Springdale Elementary Unity Learning Academy	Central Middle School Thoreau Demonstration Academy Tulsa MET MS/HS	Central High School would be an Alternative High School Hub. Felicitas Mendez International School would relocate to the Anderson building. GLA/Academy Central building would continue to serve students in the SOAR Academy. Thoreau building would be repurposed by Tulsa Public Schools.

All sites included in our proposal **enrolled fewer than 400 students** and had **building use under 65%**. None of the sites listed here are projected to have enrollment increases in the next several years.

Additional details and up-to-date information can be found at www.tulaschools.org/planning.

- Links to board resolution and presentations
 - including Superintendent's proposal presented to the Board on 9/21
- Timeline and key dates
- Frequently Asked Questions updated on an ongoing basis
- Link to community survey

Common questions and feedback

District level roles and positions

Transportation

Future costs and budgets

Student-teacher ratios

Impact on affected staff

After reviewing comment cards from our in-person sessions and the 1,744 responses on our community survey thus far, the following trends emerge:

1. A highly-qualified teacher is the highest-rated priority out of the nine on the survey.
2. Closing and consolidating schools was the highest ranked budget option on the survey.
3. The most common trends in comment feedback were to avoid increasing class sizes and to prioritize the retention of strong teachers. The class size increase options were three of the five lowest-rated items on the survey.
4. When asked to choose between fewer schools with more consistent services or more schools with reduced services, 53% chose fewer schools, 30% chose more schools, and 17% were unsure.
5. Families want more information about the implications of our choices on things like transportation, program offerings, and special education services.

District office roles and positions

We hear that you've cut district office positions.

Why aren't you cutting more now rather than closing schools?

The TPS Board approved the elimination of nearly 100 vacant and filled district office roles in March 2026. We will likely need to continue reducing positions over the next several years. Tulsa Public Schools is the county's third largest employer, with positions across a wide variety of areas. It takes a lot to operate an organization with about 5,000 employees and 100 physical sites across the city.

There will always be some administrative costs. For example, for a district our size, there is frequently a principal supervisor role to coach and support principals while ensuring consistency across the district. These roles have historically been one of our highest-rated supports to principals on annual surveys.

Transportation

How will this impact transportation moving forward?

How soon can we know the impact on our families' access to transportation?

We are working with external transportation specialists to analyze our routes under this proposal, including evaluating walk distances to bus stops and how long routes take. We are committed to using our own transportation resources and outside partnerships to meet families' needs.

While we won't be able to finalize specific routes or bus stop locations and times until after the enrollment window, we are actively working to understand what families need and identify efficiencies in our services. As in years past, closer to the start of school, we will share updated bus stops and routes.

Future costs and budgets

Will these reductions solve our budget issues? Or are we anticipating more closures in the future?

Over the past two years, we have followed a simple sequence to cut spending:

- Reduce vendor contracts and outside services
- Eliminate roles at central office
- Review site costs and identify efficiencies

We are now at a point where addressing our budget requires decisions that impact school sites. Over the next several years, we will continue looking for ways to be more efficient with the way we provide a quality learning experience to every student.

Student-teacher ratios

The number of teachers (and thus, class sizes) is determined by enrollment. Dollars and people follow the students! This is spelled out in the Board-approved staffing plan which determines the number of teachers and support staff roles based on school enrollment.

Secondary class sizes are set by a target student-teacher ratio (29:1 in middle school and 33:1 in high school)

Elementary class sizes in TPS must adhere to the maximum set by the board:

PreK:	20 students max
K-2:	28 students max (24:1 target ratio)
3-5:	34 students max (28:1 target ratio)

There are 846 traditional elementary classrooms in TPS right now.

Only 78 (9% of all classes) are above the target ratios.

Impact on affected staff

How will this impact school staff?

Will they have positions available to them in TPS?

First off, it's important to note that none of these changes would go into effect until the 27-28 school year. No positions are impacted for the duration of the 26-27 school year.

Looking ahead, we believe most position changes can be handled through normal turnover, retirements, resignations, and other departures. If any positions must be eliminated, we will follow district policy and our agreements with employee groups.

Keeping our staff and placing them where they can make an impact is an important priority for TPS.

We are beginning to develop implementation plans to ensure that we are prepared if the board adopts this proposal. We know that families will have questions that deserve timely answers.



**Planning for
Implementation**

Questions we would address before winter break

- **Home School:** What is my child's new home school? Does this change my student's middle or high school?
- **Transfers Requests:** I'm currently a transfer student at X school, can I request a different school?
- **Before/After School Programming:** Which sites will have before/after care available?

Questions we would address later

- **School Calendar and Bell Times:** What changes, if any, will we make for 27-28 to the school calendar and school start/end times?
- **Transportation:** What options will be available to me? Where will the bus stop be?

Over the next several weeks, we are continuing community sessions to answer questions about this proposal and learn key information to support further planning.



Continued Listening Sessions

Tell us what matters most to you: complete the survey through Oct. 16



- **Multiple opportunities to attend Community Information Sessions:**

- Tuesday, September 29
- Tuesday, October 6
- Wednesday, October 7 (Presented in Spanish)
- Thursday, October 8
- Monday, October 12
- Wednesday, October 14

More information: tulsaschools.org/planning

- **Language interpretation available at every session.**