



Board Update on Resolution Proposal

October 5, 2026

Agenda

1. Updates on Listening Sessions
2. Review answers to common questions so far
3. Discussion with board 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.

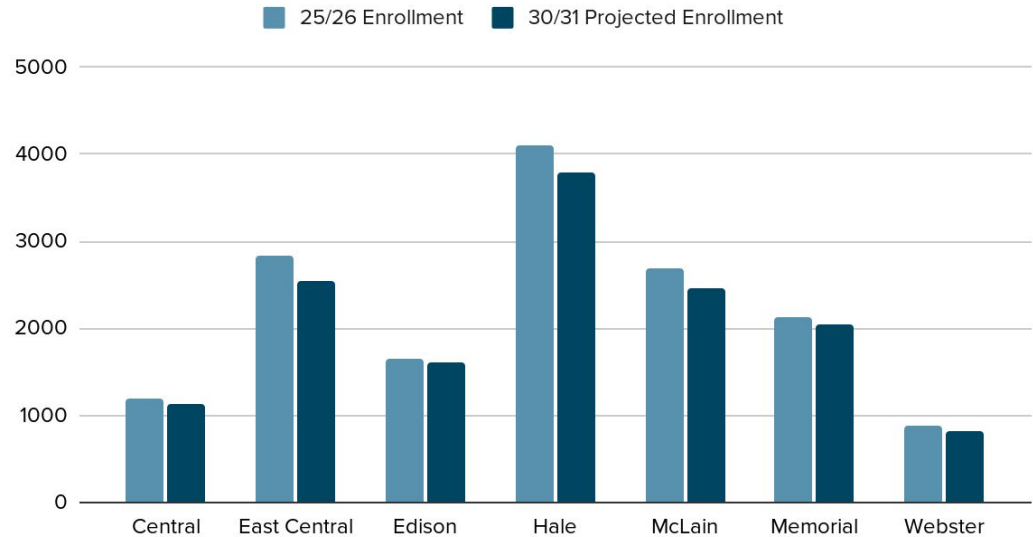
The July 27 Board Resolution requires that we bring forward recommendations by October 19 for financial savings of at least \$12 million while prioritizing access to opportunities for students across the district.

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

Projected declines in feeder pattern 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 attrition) - 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 would evolve into a Polytechnic High School with multiple career academy pathways. 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



After reviewing comment cards from our in-person sessions and the 1,801 responses on our community survey thus far, the following trends emerge:

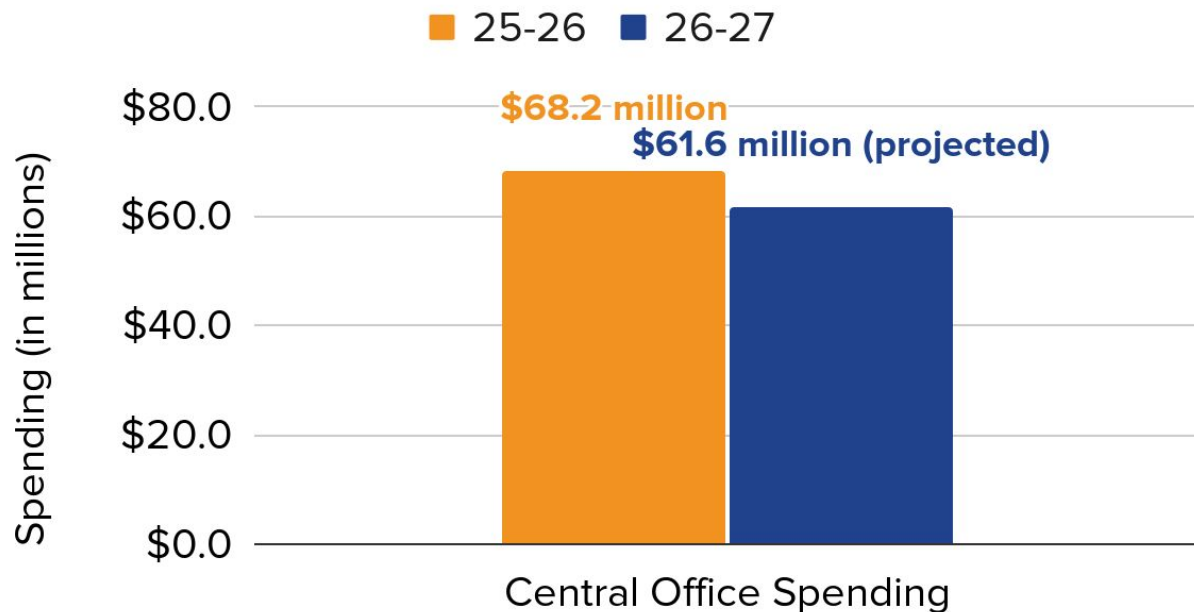
1. A highly qualified teacher remains the highest priority (with strong reading and math instruction a close second).
2. Comment feedback follows similar trends. Following the announcement of the sites recommended for closure, we've seen an uptick in feedback from families of students who attend those sites.
3. Following the 9/21 board meeting, the response to the question about fewer schools with more consistent services or more schools with reduced services remains a similar trend: 52% chose fewer schools, 31% chose more schools, and 17% were unsure.
4. There are a few areas where multiple stakeholders have requested additional information: district-level roles and positions, transportation, future costs and budgets, student-teacher ratios, and the impact on affected staff.

General fund - filled district office roles and positions

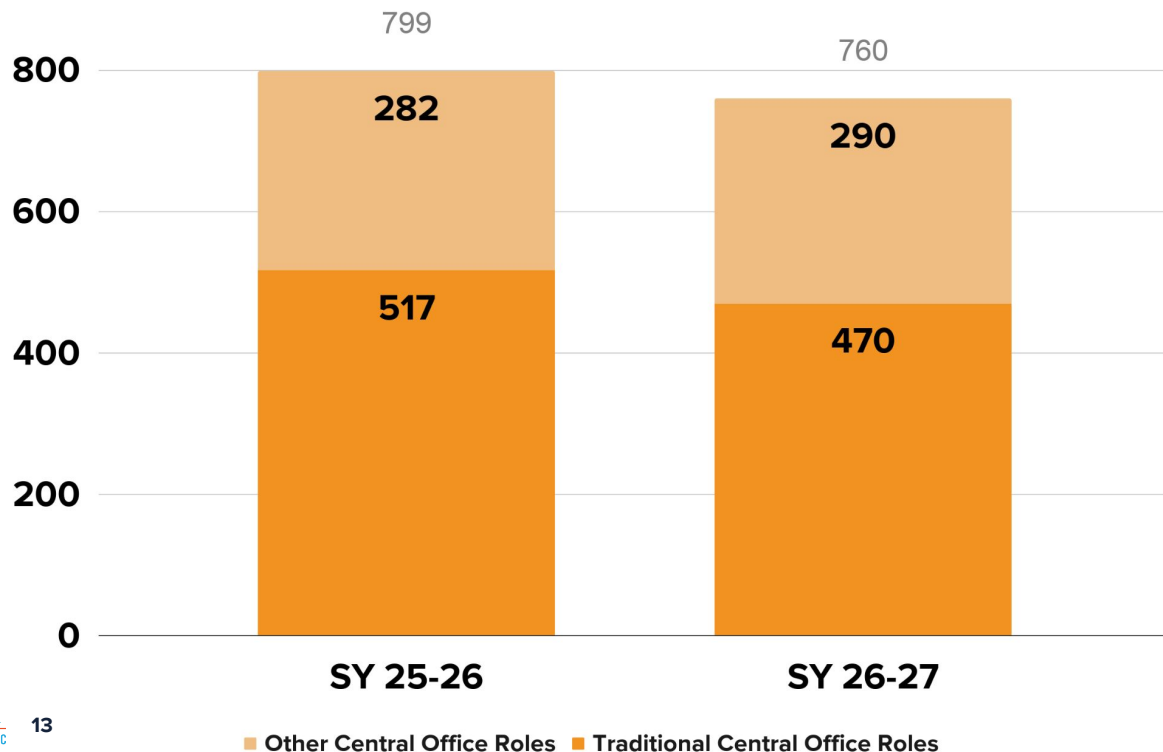
We know roles were cut from central office. What was the impact of those cuts?

In March 2026, the TPS Board eliminated nearly 100 district office roles, a net cut of 39 filled positions. Central office spending will drop about \$6.6 million this year. Our recommendation adds \$1.5 million more in central office cuts.

Central office salary/benefits spend by school year



General fund - filled district office roles and positions



Division	FY26	FY27
Academics	182	180
Finance	96	104
Legal	9	9
Operations	281	271
Team Schools	138	102
Strategy	17	21
Superintendent & Chief of Staff	39	37
Talent	38	37
Grand Total	799	760

Future costs and budgets

Will this solve the budget problem? Or are we anticipating more closures in the future?

When we first began our efforts to reduce the structural deficit two years ago, we followed a simple sequence:

- Reduced vendor contracts and outside services
- Eliminated roles at central office
- Reviewed site costs to identify efficiencies

We are now at a point where closing the budget gap requires addressing decisions that impact 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.

The number of teachers (and therefore 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 and 33:1 in high)

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.

91% of these classes are at or below the target ratio.

This proposal will NOT change class size limits.

Approximation of General Fund Potential Budget Impact of School Consolidation

- **Class size limit will not change AND**
- **Budget savings will be realized because resources will not be spread so thin.**

Annual Operations Costs

- **50%** will follow students to their new school
- **25%** will be saved when students move to their new school
- **25%** will still be needed to maintain property

Annual Staffing Plan Costs

- **75%** will follow students to their new school
- **25%** will be saved when students move to their new school



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 transportation specialists to analyze our current routes based on this proposal. We are committed to leveraging internal transportation and external partnerships as much as we can 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 families' needs and identify efficiencies in our services. As in years past, closer to the start of school, we will share updated bus stops and routes.

Bond investments

How will this impact the bond that was recently approved?

Every dollar that families and Tulsa community members approved will go towards students. If there were upgrades, construction, or materials flagged for individual sites impacted by the proposal, those will be redirected to receiving sites. We will engage our bond oversight committee to support these decisions.

Impact on affected staff

How will this impact school staff? Will they have positions available to them in TPS?

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.

Attracting and retaining families in Tulsa Public Schools

This proposal responds to the immediate challenge ahead of us. We also are seeking to add students, not only cut costs.

We believe we can do this by:

1. Expanding virtual offerings to out of district students
2. Exploring additional ways to expand seats at in-demand programs
3. Executing on the investments we committed to in the 2026 Bond (especially our College and Career Academies and Fine Arts/Athletics)

Repurposing facilities

What will happen to buildings if this proposal is approved?

When a school is closed, our district is committed to maintaining and securing the facility. This includes mowing, maintenance, and security monitoring.

The process for surplus or selling any of our facilities is managed by board policy 5402. We have not yet made detailed plans for every building, and our estimates don't assume that we will sell any of our buildings. Any building sales would be revenue into the building fund.

We are using the listening sessions currently to inform any recommendations we would bring to the board. Possible later recommendations could include:

- Recommend for surplus and sale
- Repurpose to expand access to in-demand programs or address a district need

Repurposing facilities

There are a few ideas that have surfaced we are already considering:

- Immersion programming is in-demand. For example, Zarrow had 159 in-district and 27 out-of-district students on the waitlist in July. We could consider moving Zarrow to a larger facility to allow for a slow expansion (adding a Pre-K and/or kinder classroom and growing).
- Many investments have been made in recent years in the Thoreau building. Some options raised are offering a different type of magnet middle school (Montessori, STEM magnet), a teacher training center that could generate additional revenue, or a center for serving unique student populations.
- There are many community needs we're hearing about in both these sessions and in our previous engagement (childcare centers, housing, expanded programming for students, and more). We're learning more about what neighborhoods would value if this plan is approved.

Buildings impacted by recommended closures and consolidations

Buildings that would continue to serve students or would be repurposed for other TPS district use	Buildings that would not serve students in 27-28
Anderson Greenwood Leadership Academy / Academy Central Thoreau	Bell Dolores Huerta Hoover Kerr Key Marshall Mitchell Peary Ralph J. Bunche (current site of Mendez) Robertson Sequoyah Springdale Unity Learning Academy Tulsa MET MS/HS



**Looking
ahead**

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, 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.**