TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Information Session

Discussion about Board Resolution Proposal

October 14, 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.

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 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.

Tulsaschools.org/planning

Additional details and up-to-date information can be found at www.tulsaschools.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 1,947 responses on our community survey thus far, the following trends emerge:

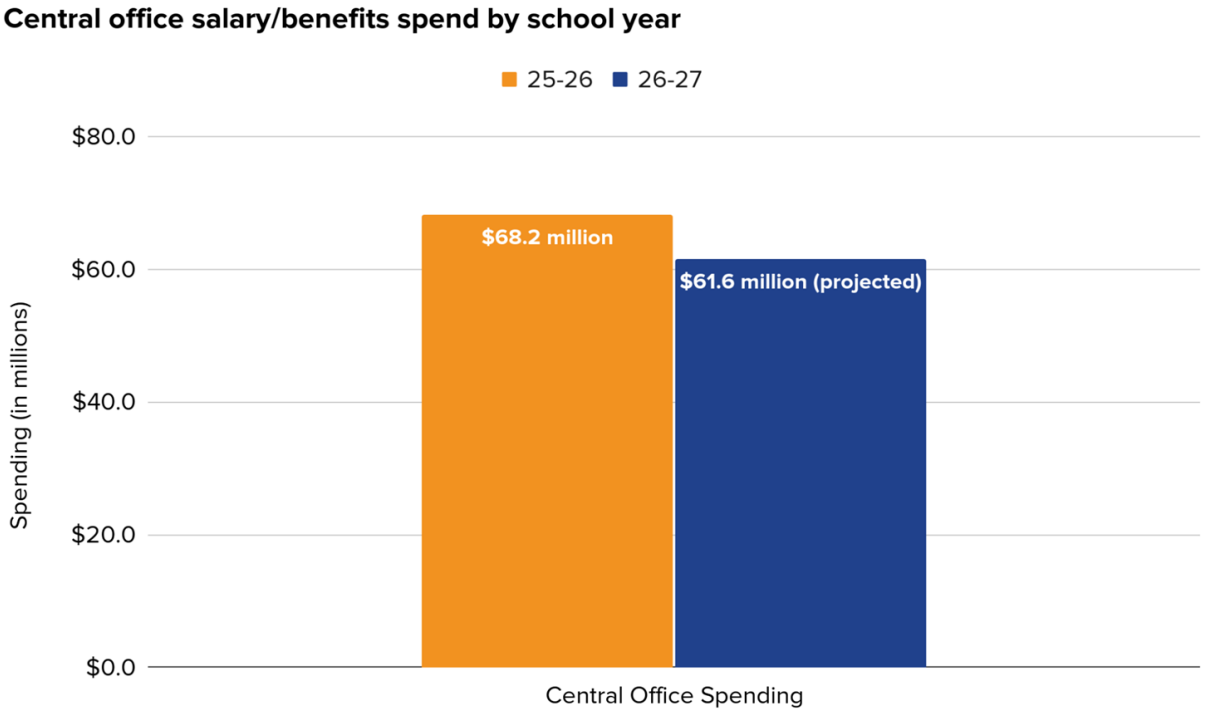
1. A highly qualified teacher remains the highest priority (with strong reading and math instruction a close second).
2. Comment feedback follows similar trends. Since the first four community sessions, we've seen feedback centered around schools roles in their communities, class size, and equitable access to athletics, arts, and enrichment.
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: 51% chose fewer schools, 31% chose more schools, and 18% 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.

Survey results as of October 12, 2026

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 (both filled and unfilled). Central office spending will drop about $6.6 million this year.
Our recommendation adds $1.5 million more in central office cuts.



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 can I find out how my child will get to school?
When will I know about bus routes?

This proposal does not change any existing transportation policy.

Bus eligibility follows district policy and is based on how far a student lives from their school.

Today, elementary school students are eligible for transportation when they live more than one and a half miles from their home school site. For middle school and high school students, that distance is two miles. Students who receive special education services will continue to receive the transportation required under their Individualized Education Program.

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.

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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 are also 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 surplusing 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:

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

Looking ahead

This week, 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

- More information: tulsaschools.org/planning
- Monday, Oct. 19 - board meeting to discuss and vote on superintendent recommendations