



East Lansing Public Schools
501 Burcham Dr.
East Lansing, MI 48823

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Dear East Lansing Public Schools Community,

As East Lansing Public Schools (ELPS) continues to look to the future of educating our community's children, it's important to share current information with you regarding operations, educational programming and facilities.

FACILITIES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

ELPS operates five elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. The high school and middle school are the district's most modern facilities, having been renovated in 2004 and 2013 respectively. The ELPS elementary buildings were all originally constructed over 50 years ago, with the most recent additions and other renovations for each occurring 24 years ago or more. The State of Michigan defines the useful life of a school building at 40 years. Our elementary school building ages are as follows:

- Donley, built in 1951, last renovated in 1981
- Glencairn, built in 1952, last renovated in 1991
- Marble, built in 1952, last renovated in 1993
- Pinecrest, built in 1960, last renovated in 1991
- Red Cedar, built in 1948, last renovated in 1991 (closed in 2014)
- Whitehills, built in 1963, last renovated in 1991

Teaching and learning look much different today than when our elementary buildings were constructed and renovated. Diverse student instructional needs have expanded and can be better supported with physical and academic environments that inspire 21st century student learning. These needs have been addressed at the middle school and high school through recent renovations but not at the elementary buildings. The table on the reverse side illustrates some of the changes in teaching and learning over the past 50 years that lend themselves to the need for different types of instructional spaces.

ADDRESS AREA

TEACHING AND LEARNING 50 YEARS AGO	TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Students were in rows of desks or tables.	Classrooms have a variety of learning spaces with various purposes (e.g. maker spaces, lab spaces, project spaces).
Students generally worked in isolation and completed tasks independently.	Students work collaboratively – in pairs, small groups, and large groups.
Learning space was confined primarily to the classroom.	Learning space is expanded outside the classroom to the outdoors, the school campus, and the community.
Classrooms were more teacher-focused, and the teacher was the provider of information.	Classrooms are student-centered, and students move to different activities.
Students were passive learners.	Students are active learners and require space to explore, research, design, and create.
Curriculum was taught by subject.	Curriculum is integrated, interdisciplinary, and connected to students' interests, experiences, and the real world.
Student performance was based on paper/pencil assessments.	Student performance is based on evidence of learning through assessments, projects, presentations, and other forms.
Textbooks and other print resources were the primary source for information.	Multiple forms of media are used as sources of information.
Students with disabilities were educated in a segregated building, if they were educated at all.	Students with disabilities attend school along with their non-disabled peers, requiring space to accommodate adaptive equipment, wheelchairs, and sensory needs.
The demographics of the community and the ELPS student population were less diverse than today.	The community and the ELPS student population are diverse with a great variety of needs that often require more space (e.g. intervention, English learners, Title I).

Source: 20th vs 21st Century Classroom. 21stcenturyschools.com. n.d. Retrieved from www.21stcenturyschools.com/20th-vs-21st-century-classroom.html. 8/11/16

ENROLLMENT AND FUNDING

Enrollment at ELPS has remained steady over the past ten years. In the 2005/2006 school year, Fall enrollment was at 3,460 students. Fall enrollment for the 2015/2016 school year was at 3,631 students. These figures include both resident and non-resident students (such as school of choice). Each year, ELPS has the option of accepting schools of choice students and has been doing so since the 1996/1997 school year, the year after the State of Michigan introduced the program. Schools of choice students made up nearly 23% of our student body in Fall 2015, per the table below.

	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS OF CHOICE STUDENTS
FALL 2015	3,631 students	22.8%
FALL 2005	3,460 students	19.7%
FALL 1996	3,922 students	4.1%

The number of schools of choice students has grown over the past twenty years, and currently provides ELPS with an additional \$5.9 million in state money, a source of funding which helps to maintain our current facilities and programs.

GOING FORWARD

In order to plan accordingly and be good stewards of these public facilities, we have embarked on a facilities assessment process, with a focus on our elementary buildings. In this process, all buildings and sites are being evaluated, providing both a snapshot of the district's current facility needs and a look forward to the district's anticipated needs.

From a site perspective, the following are being evaluated: traffic flow, separation of pedestrians and vehicles, parking lot sizes and conditions, playground safety and capacity, drainage, pavement and concrete conditions, the size and physical characteristics of the sites for development purposes and overall accessibility.

From a facility perspective, the following are being evaluated: safety and security in and around the buildings, building envelope (roofing, windows, doors and wall systems), mechanical systems, electrical systems, interior finishes, technology infrastructure, technology equipment, general equipment, educational program requirements and operational efficiencies.

This facilities assessment process includes a community survey in order to engage with our parents and community members to get your feedback regarding current facilities, operations and programming. The survey will be distributed electronically (or can be accessed via the link below). Your input is valued and very important to this process.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/elpscommunity

The facilities assessment and survey results will be shared with the community.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions.

Thank you in advance for your time and for helping to plan for the future of East Lansing Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Robyne Thompson, Ph.D.
Superintendent

