

Facility Guiding Principles of the Facilities Master Planning Visioning Committee September 25, 2012

Guiding Statement

Good school design equips educators with the infrastructure to engage students and community. As a natural community center, it should be available and inviting, with resources based on the needs of the neighborhood it serves. Schools must be flexible and safe, serving students, parents, school employees and community groups. Technology and furnishings must be strategic, mobile, durable and robust to accommodate various learning opportunities.

Students

Schools should be flexible, available, equipped with technology, and connected to purposeful, meaningful learning and support.

- Include different ways for learners to gain, demonstrate and share their learning.
- The building should be rich in technology, mobile, appropriate bandwidth, wiring, outlets and allowing the integration of student furnished electronic devices.
- Include mobile tables, chairs, and technology; space accommodates individual/group. Flexible furnishings will allow adaptable teaching interactions.
- Provide accessible, warm, positive spaces.
- Provide project, performance and service based opportunities which allow the student to engage with the community.
- Consider student input.

Parents

Schools should be the community hub, an inviting sharing center, based on neighborhood needs.

- The school must be safe, visually inviting, well cared for, clean, and equipped with technology for learning.
- Provide a comfortable, common space for teachers and parents to connect.
- Help parents feel comfortable and confident about the learning environment.
- The school should be available and flexible at different times, to support learning and different community use. The school should be a community center. Sharing and communication should be based on neighborhood needs such as healthcare and other services.

Teachers

A good school design equips teachers with the infrastructure required to engage students in relevant instruction, with spaces that adapt to community use.

- Include additional time and training to help teachers deliver instruction in the most engaging and technological ways.
- Learning centers are more than structures, and more than technology. Provide community spaces and organizations, which help build relationships and encourage collaboration.
- Planfully design flexible learning spaces and work areas that support a variety of teaching and learning experiences.

Community

Schools are natural centers to encourage lifelong learning for families, neighborhoods, and the whole community.

- Provide opportunities for community interaction and learning; YMCA, theater, library, public and private organizations are examples.
- Serve the needs and demands of the community. Wi-Fi, neighborhood hot spot, computer lab, day care, recreation, the arts and adult education are examples.