

CCS ELEVATE

LINDEN-MCKINLEY GRADE BAND STANDARDIZATION

In November 2023, thanks to the overwhelming support of Columbus voters, Columbus City Schools passed a \$100-million levy pledging to upgrade their facilities and reduce their footprint. The goal is to support the district's mission of providing a high-quality education for all students. Per Board Policy 7105, the Superintendent created a Community Facilities Task Force in early February 2024 to assess the realignment of district facilities. This task force consists of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experience.

The Task Force presented initial recommendations to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 7. The recommendations focused on standardizing grade bands in buildings, increasing access to academic and extracurricular activities, providing equitable services to families and students, and honoring prior taxpayers' investments. The goal is to better understand the community's perspective on the initial recommendations and enhance collaboration through open dialogue. This will help align the facilities' master plan with the District's mission and enhance understanding of Columbus City Schools.

The Superintendent's Community Facilities Task Force recommends that the Board of Education consolidate the sixth grade students from the Linden-McKinley feeder pattern to Linden-McKinley, creating a 6-12 grade site with a middle school and a high school on the same campus.

Linden-McKinley STEM Academy (1928) can serve 886 students; however, as of the 2023-2024 school year, only 704 students are enrolled, with a current utilization rate of 80%.

Realigning the feeder patterns in the Linden-McKinley school attendance boundary and welcoming sixth grade students from **Hamilton STEM, Linden STEM, South Mifflin STEM, and Windsor STEM** into Linden-McKinley STEM Academy 6-12 will standardize the grade bands for middle school students (6-8). Offering sixth grade students a traditional middle school experience and additional instructional time.

Welcoming sixth-grade students to Linden-McKinley will provide a bigger building with the opportunity to provide stronger offerings, a theater, and athletic facilities. This will give middle school students more extracurricular activities such as music, speech and debate, performing arts, and athletics.

