



WAUWATOSA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Families and Community Members:

In November 2024, Wauwatosa School District voters approved additional funding to keep all our elementary schools open. We sincerely appreciate our community's support.

The next phase of our long-term plan focuses on our middle and high school buildings. The oldest of these schools is nearly 100 years old, while the newest is almost 60 years old. As a result, they are not designed to support today's educational needs.

The purpose of this survey is to get your input to help decide *how and when* to invest in these schools. Options include closing one or more of the middle schools and high schools. We recognize each option has benefits and tradeoffs. Once the District gets your feedback, a future survey will gather input on our community's willingness to pay for potential projects.

To help develop a plan, the District established the Secondary School Ad Hoc Committee in spring 2025, made up of 25 community members. **This group will use feedback from this community-wide survey to help determine which path to pursue.** Your feedback will be kept confidential.

TWO WAYS TO TAKE THIS SURVEY

Online: (saves postage costs)

Go to:

www.SPFeedback.com

Enter your code:



Paper: Return to any school office or mail it to School Perceptions, PO Box 607, Slinger, WI 53086.

The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at 414.773.1010.

Para realizar la encuesta en español, vaya a www.SPFeedback.com, ingrese el código de arriba, luego haga clic en el enlace que se encuentra en la esquina superior derecha.

Để thực hiện khảo sát bằng tiếng Việt, hãy truy cập www.SPFeedback.com, nhập mã ở trên rồi nhấp vào liên kết ở góc trên bên phải.

Survey deadline: January 26, 2026

If you need additional support to complete this survey, please contact us at 414.773.1010. Survey results will be reported at a public meeting and available on our website.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Demond Means

Superintendent

Facility Planning Timeline



District begins the long-term facility planning process and completes facility assessment	Voters approve funding to build/renovate four elementary schools and update security and HVAC systems	Voters approve funding to address deferred maintenance at the elementary schools and improve ADA accessibility	Community Ad Hoc Committee and administration focus on middle and high school options	Consider a referendum to invest in the middle and high schools
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The secondary schools (middle and high schools) were not addressed in the last referendum for two reasons:

1. The District wanted to minimize the tax impact on our residents. Completing all renovations (elementary, middle, and high school) at one time would have been too expensive.
2. The District wanted more input on whether all middle and high schools should remain open. Student enrollment in our schools has declined by more than 500 students over the last 10 years. An outside study shows these declines will continue.



For more information, visit www.wauwatosaschools.org/secondaryschooladhoc2025.

Middle and High School Building Maintenance

School	Year Built	Building Systems	Classroom Quality	Excess Capacity	Projected Deferred Maintenance Cost
Longfellow Middle	1956	Fair*	Poor	+393	\$165 million
Whitman Middle	1959	Fair*	Poor	+189	
East High	1927	Poor	Poor	+417	
West High	1967	Fair*	Poor	+248	

* The majority of HVAC systems have been recently updated, but significant electrical and mechanical upgrades remain.

The following information is divided into three categories to help you understand what must be addressed versus what involves community choices.

1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

These issues must be addressed regardless of which facility option our community chooses.

- **Mechanical Systems:** Heating and cooling systems (such as boilers, chillers, controls, and sensors) are at or beyond expected lifespan and require replacement (especially at East).
- **Plumbing:** Aging pipes and fixtures need updating for reliability and code compliance.
- **Electrical Systems:** Current electrical infrastructure cannot safely support modern educational technology.
- **ADA Compliance:** Restrooms, door hardware, ramps, and elevators must be updated to meet federal accessibility requirements.

Middle and High School Building Maintenance (cont'd)

2) IMPROVEMENTS THAT WOULD ENHANCE FACILITIES

These items would improve our schools but are not required for basic operation.

- **Energy Efficiency:** Upgrading windows, lighting, and insulation would reduce operating costs but is not an immediate safety concern.
- **Technology Infrastructure:** Enhanced wiring and connectivity would support modern teaching methods.
- **Traffic Flow:** Drop-off and pick-up congestion is a common challenge at schools that could be improved through various means (traffic management, staggered schedules, site redesign).
- **Security Enhancements:** Whitman's main entrance configuration could be improved; however, this can be addressed through renovation rather than closure.
- **Pool Modernization:** Updating pools at other schools would be beneficial but is not required for school operation.

3) ENROLLMENT AND BUILDING CAPACITY

This section provides factual context about enrollment. How the community weighs this information is a matter of values and priorities.

Student enrollment has declined by approximately 500 students over the last 10 years. Projections suggest enrollment may continue to decline. After sixth-grade students shift to elementary schools in 2029-30, middle schools will have additional available space. There are different ways to view the available space.

- **Efficiency Focus:** Available space means maintaining more building square footage than strictly necessary, which increases operating costs.
- **Educational Focus:** Smaller class sizes and less crowded facilities can support personalized learning and student well-being.
- **Flexibility Focus:** Available space provides room for future program expansion, population growth, or community use.
- **Community Focus:** Multiple buildings maintain neighborhood schools and distributed community assets.

More information can be found in chapter two of our 2024 long-range facility plan.
Visit www.wauwatosaschools.org/secondaryschooladhoc2025.



Comments/questions/suggestions:

***Note:** Each project cost estimate below has been updated after a comprehensive review conducted by our outside partners (including Findorff, Plunkett Raysich Architects, and Zimmerman Architectural Studios). They are based off the most recent estimates at the time of print and are represented in 2025 dollars. Costs will be updated as our planning process continues and before a potential referendum.

One High School or Two?

Before investing significant money, we need to determine which buildings should serve which grades. Wauwatosa has 10% fewer high school students now than in 2001. Enrollment projections show that by 2035, we will decline by another 10%, meaning all high school students could fit into one building.

Therefore, one option is to consolidate two high schools into one.

If pursued, the Tosa West site would be used as the location of the community's high school. The Tosa East building would be maintained but repurposed for grades 7-8. Longfellow and Whitman would be closed.

Why West and not East?

Tosa East does not have the space needed for all high school students. In addition, the site lacks space for outdoor athletics and parking.



Estimated cost: \$346 million*

How important is it that the committee explore this option?	<input type="checkbox"/> Very important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat important <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat unimportant <input type="checkbox"/> Very unimportant <input type="checkbox"/> No preference <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments/questions/suggestions:

Options for Two High Schools

If the community supports maintaining *two high schools*, two paths could be explored.

① Move 7th and 8th grades to the East and West facilities

This option would close the Longfellow and Whitman buildings. The 7th and 8th grade students would move to East and West but be nearly completely separated under this configuration.

Estimated cost: Up to \$369 million*



How important is it that the committee explore this option?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- No preference
- Not sure

Comments/questions/suggestions:

② Move 7th and 8th grades to the Longfellow and West facilities

West would serve grades 7-12, and Longfellow would serve grades 7-12. Portions of East would remain for a community recreation center (such as gym space, performing arts center, and pool). This option would close Fisher and repurpose Whitman for the District Office and the Montessori program.

Estimated cost: Up to \$447 million*



How important is it that the committee explore this option?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- No preference
- Not sure

Comments/questions/suggestions:

Maintain Existing Grade/Building Structure

If the community does not support changing the grade/building configuration of the middle and high schools, the facility advisory committee will need to develop a plan to maintain and update our existing buildings. There are two options.

① No buildings would close, requiring repairing/replacing major building systems, completing capital maintenance, and making classroom updates at each school.

Current:



Estimated cost: Up to \$349 million*

How important is it that the committee explore this option?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- No preference
- Not sure

Comments/questions/suggestions:

② This option is the same as above. However, the District would close and seek to sell the Fisher building. The Montessori program would move to Longfellow, and the District Office would move to Whitman.

Current:



This option:



How important is it that the committee explore this option?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- No preference
- Not sure

Comments/questions/suggestions:

Other Facility Planning

The District lacks spaces for fine arts performances, indoor athletics, and other large community events (such as graduations). Please indicate how important it is for the committee to include the following in the facility plan.

	Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Not Important	Not Sure
A high school fieldhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>				
A high school performing arts center	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Swimming pool(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Comments/questions/suggestions:

Respondent Information

What is your age? 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+

Is your primary residence in the Wauwatosa School District? Yes No Not sure

Are you an employee of the Wauwatosa School District? Yes No

Do you have children attending a school in the District? Yes No

If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? (Select all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Eisenhower Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Madison Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> McKinley Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Roosevelt Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Underwood Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Elementary	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Wauwatosa Montessori	<input type="checkbox"/> Wauwatosa STEM	<input type="checkbox"/> Longfellow Middle
<input type="checkbox"/> Whitman Middle	<input type="checkbox"/> East High	<input type="checkbox"/> West High
<input type="checkbox"/> Private/parochial school	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Wauwatosa School District
12121 W. North Ave.
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

**IMPORTANT SCHOOL
SURVEY ENCLOSED**

Questions?

Contact the District Office
at 414.773.1010.



***Please complete this school survey
before January 26, 2026.***

*This publication was produced for the residents of the **Wauwatosa School District**. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.*