

# A Proposal Focused on Protecting & Improving District 58's School Buildings

Downers Grove Grade School District 58, which serves 4,966 students in preschool through eighth grade, seeks the community's input on a proposal to repair and renovate its 13 schools. **No final decisions have been made and no further actions will be taken until we gather additional public input.**

The proposal includes maintenance projects; health, safety and security upgrades; and expansion of the two middle schools (Herrick and O'Neill) to allow for the addition of sixth-grade students. Reconfiguring the schools would impact all students by improving the middle school experience and freeing up space at the elementary schools.

## ✓ Maintenance

- State-Mandated Repairs:
  - Fire Alarms
  - Clocks/PA/Intercom Systems
  - ADA Signage
  - Doors/Hardware
  - Bleachers
- Roofing
- Building Envelope
- Plumbing
- Site Improvements
- Electrical Repairs/Panelboards
- Bathroom Renovations

## ✓ Health, Safety & Security

- Secure Vestibules (Entryways)
- Comprehensive Indoor Air Quality, Heating & Ventilation Systems and Equipment Improvements
- Air Conditioning with Required Electrical Upgrades

## ✓ Grade 6-8 Reconfiguration (Partial Addition & Renovation of Both Herrick and O'Neill Middle Schools)

- Additional Classrooms to Accommodate Sixth-Grade Students
- Consolidation of Staff & Student Support Spaces
- Expansion/Remodel of Existing Cafeterias & Kitchen Additions
- Library Improvements
- Collaboration Spaces

**Total Estimated Cost: \$179 Million**

### Estimated Annual Tax Impact:

Home Value	Tax Impact
\$250,000	\$191
\$300,000	\$229
\$500,000	\$382
\$750,000	\$574
Rate Increase	.23



## Why move sixth-grade students to the middle schools? It would...

### Give sixth graders full access to their curriculum:

Sixth graders currently cannot complete the full sixth-grade curriculum outlined in the State's learning standards. For example, elementary schools lack the science labs needed for the sixth grade chemistry unit.

**Reduce overcrowding:** Many District 58 elementary schools are crowded, with large class sizes and no separate learning spaces for special classes, like music or art. Moving sixth grade would give elementary schools additional instructional space.

**Improve alignment and collaboration:** Curriculum materials and State learning standards are generally grouped into grades K-5 and 6-8. Moving sixth grade would better align the curriculum and enhance collaboration opportunities.

**Address developmental needs:** Sixth graders are considered young adolescents and have more in common with seventh- and eighth-grade peers than fourth- and fifth-grade students.

**Plus:** Moving sixth grade to the middle school would also increase the time between transitions, benefit social-emotional learning, enhance equity, improve math acceleration opportunities, and save operating dollars.

**Did you know?** District 58 is one of only two DuPage County school districts with a grade 7-8 middle school model.

Learn more at  
[www.dg58.org/facility-planning](http://www.dg58.org/facility-planning).

Downers Grove Grade School District 58



# Our Schools are 53 to 94 Years Old

**Downers Grove Grade School District 58 is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 13 schools, most of which were built before 1960.** While the District has done a good job of stewarding taxpayer dollars and maintaining its aging schools, the buildings are in need of repairs and renovations to improve health, safety and security; extend their useful life; improve ADA accessibility; enhance energy efficiency; and reduce emergency repairs.



53 Years Old

**Belle Aire Elementary School** (Built 1969)



63 Years Old

**Fairmount Elementary School** (Built 1959)



69 Years Old

**Herrick Middle School** (Built 1953)



70 Years Old

**Hillcrest Elementary School** (Built 1952)



59 Years Old

**Kingsley Elementary School** (Built 1963)



65 Years Old

**O'Neill Middle School** (Built 1957)



94 Years Old

**Whittier Elementary School** (Built 1928)



53 Years Old

**El Sierra Elementary School** (Built 1969)



84 Years Old

**Henry Puffer Elementary School** (Built 1938)



70 Years Old

**Highland Elementary School** (Built 1952)



55 Years Old

**Indian Trail Elementary School** (Built 1967)



66 Years Old

**Lester Elementary School** (Built 1956)



70 Years Old

**Pierce Downer Elementary School** (Built 1952)

## Your Input Is Critical

Nothing is set in stone until we hear from you, our taxpayers. The Board of Education, as well as a 43-member Citizen Task Force, seek the community's input on potential building improvements, grade reconfiguration and associated costs.

Due to the scope of the capital improvement needs, the District cannot fund this work without issuing taxpayer-approved funding.

## Community Information Meetings & Tours

Please join us for an informational meeting to learn more and share your thoughts about the proposed solutions. The format and content of all meetings will be the same.

**Below are the dates, times and locations:**

**Thursday, March 3, 2022**

6:30-8:00 pm  
Herrick Middle School

**Saturday, March 5, 2022**

9:00-10:30 am  
O'Neill Middle School

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

6:30-8:00 pm  
O'Neill Middle School

**Saturday, March 12, 2022**

9:00-10:30 am  
Herrick Middle School

**Format:**

- ✓ Tour
- ✓ Presentation
- ✓ Q&A

Facility planning updates will also be posted at [www.dg58.org/facility-planning](http://www.dg58.org/facility-planning).

