



# BUILDING 73.5

*A PLAN TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS*

COMMUNITY DIGEST SPECIAL EDITION

MAY 2025

## Community Engagement Process

### FALL 2024

Architectural Facility Assessment

### SPRING 2025

Building 73.5 Community Input: Educational Needs, Building Needs

### SUMMER 2025

Architects Develop Options

### FALL 2025

Building 73.5 Community Input: Options and Costs

### FALL 2025

Building 73.5 Final Report Presented to Board of Education

Visit [SD735.org/Building735](https://SD735.org/Building735) for more information, FAQs, and meeting documents

### Skokie 73.5 Board of Education

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Dr. LaTasha Nelson, Vice President  
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Elana Jacobs, Secretary Pro Tem  
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Co-Interim Superintendents

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## Community Members Help Shape the Future of Skokie School District 73.5

More than 120 community members came together on **Monday, April 21**, for the first **Building 73.5 Community Engagement Session**, an initiative aimed at involving residents, families, staff, and Skokie School District 73.5 leadership in long-term facility planning for the district.

Held at John Middleton Elementary School, the event provided an in-depth look at the current challenges facing the district's facilities. One-third of the district's buildings are over 60 years old, and even the newest was built over three decades ago. These aging buildings face growing infrastructure needs that must be addressed to maintain safe, secure and effective learning environments for all students.

During the session, the community heard information on critical topics, including the need for **safety and security** upgrades, deteriorating **infrastructure**, outdated **classrooms**, and the evolving **educational needs** of today's students.

Following the presentation, attendees participated in small group discussions, where they collaborated to identify and come to a group consensus on the **top five planning principles** that will help guide future decision-making for district facilities.

The district invites the entire Skokie 73.5 community to continue the conversation at the second engagement session, "*Understanding Educational Needs: Priorities for Our School Facilities*," which will be held at Oliver McCracken Middle School on **Monday, May 20 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** McCracken Middle School is located at **8000 East Prairie Road in Skokie.**

This is a vital opportunity for everyone in the community to learn more about the challenges facing our school facilities and to share their perspectives on what our kids and community need most to thrive. The session will again include a presentation focused on education needs as well as time for community members to engage with one another and hear a variety of perspectives as the discussion unfolds.

**Community input is essential.** The feedback gathered at these sessions will directly inform the long-term facility planning process and help shape a future that supports safe, updated, and effective learning environments. Every voice makes a difference, and the district is committed to listening to and reflecting the community's priorities and values in the planning process.

For more information and to RSVP, visit [SD735.org/Building735](https://SD735.org/Building735). RSVP is not required, but is helpful for planning.



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## Share Your Thoughts

Join us

May 20 from 7-9 p.m. at  
McCracken Middle School  
to discuss school challenges like  
safety, aging buildings, and  
evolving learning needs.