

Jefferson Parish Schools 2020 Infrastructure and Efficiency Plan
Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated: 2/18/20

Will teachers lose their jobs under this plan?

No. Certificated employees with a satisfactory evaluation working at a closing or consolidated school will maintain their employment, salary, and benefits. Just like last year's school consolidations and K-8 expansion, the JP Schools Human Resources team will visit schools to meet face-to-face with employees impacted by these changes and get their input on where they would like to work next school year.

When will the Jefferson Parish School Board vote on this plan?

The school board will vote on this plan March 4 at the conclusion of a public forum. The meeting will take place at the JP Schools Administration Building at 501 Manhattan Blvd. in Harvey at 5 p.m.

How can I watch the meeting if I can't make it in person?

The March school board meeting will air live on Jefferson Parish Schools television and stream live on our website. JP Schools TV can be viewed on Cox and AT&T Uverse. You can find the [live stream link here](#).

If approved, when will these changes take effect?

These changes would be for the 2020-21 school year.

What schools are impacted by the consolidations and closings?

The following school consolidations will take place under this plan: Douglass Elementary will be absorbed into Johnson Gretna Park Elementary and McDonogh 26 Elementary. Jefferson Elementary will be consolidated with Riverdale Middle at the Riverdale Middle campus, converted into a K-8 school, and named Jefferson Elementary. Thibodeaux Elementary will be moved to the Pitre Elementary campus, which will be named Thibodeaux Elementary. Washington Elementary will be absorbed into Bunche Elementary. Westbank Community School will move to the Douglass facility and be renamed Frederick Douglass Community School.

What schools are being converted into K-8 schools?

This plan calls for the creation of five new K-8 schools: Dolhonde Elementary (current K-5), Harahan Elementary (current K-5), Hazel Park Elementary (current K-5), Jefferson Elementary,

(current K-5) at the Riverdale Middle (6-8) campus, and Woodland West Elementary (current K-5).

What is a K-8 school?

K-8s are neighborhood schools that serve students in grades kindergarten through 8th. Our K-8s offer the highest curriculum in the state, enriching athletics and extracurricular activities, and a safe nurturing environment where students are prepared for high school and beyond.

What's the benefit of attending a K-8?

Our neighborhood K-8 schools give families the opportunity to keep their child in a nurturing environment that's close to home from kindergarten to the 8th grade. Many families choose to leave our system after the 5th grade when their child would enter a traditional middle school. Not only have families told us they would stay with JP Schools if they could remain at their elementary school, but data shows a major benefit for kids. Students in the middle grades (6-8) at our K-8 schools perform higher on state assessments and attend school more often than their peers in our traditional middle schools.

As a parent, should I be concerned about younger elementary kids being at the same school as middle school age children?

While this is a question we hear from parents about the shift to a K-8 model, we have not experienced problems from this age difference at our schools. Student safety is our top responsibility, so we make sure there are rules in place to keep kids supervised and with their grade levels in the hallways, at lunch, etc... Something we have seen is that the older kids will often serve as helpers and mentors for the younger students. The older students will even do things like read to younger grades.

Where can I find the new attendance zones?

Click on one of the following links to view the proposed attendance zone: [East Bank Elementary](#), [East Bank Middle](#), [West Bank Elementary](#), [West Bank Middle](#), [West Bank High](#)

My child is entering the terminal grade at their school (5th grade in elementary, 8th in middle, 12th in high). Can they stay at their current school for their final school year?

Yes. Students who will be entering their terminal grade next school year can choose to stay at that school. Those families will be required to provide their own transportation.

Under the high school choice included in this plan, can an 8th grade student choose a high school on the opposite side of the river?

Yes. A student who is zoned to an East Bank high school can choose to attend a West Bank high school as long as it is one of the high schools included in the school choice process.

What happens to the International Baccalaureate Program under this plan?

This plan will keep and continue the district's investment in the high school IBO program, while discontinuing the IBO program in elementary and middle schools starting with the 2020-21 school year.

My child is currently part of the IBO program in elementary or middle school and attends a school out of our attendance zone. Can they stay in that school after this year?

Yes. Families who are part of our elementary or middle school IBO programs now can choose to stay at their current school. Those families will be required to provide their own transportation.

How are families being informed of changes that may impact them?

The district is sending letters home to all families who would be impacted by the attendance zone changes. Families can also view the proposed changes at jpschools.org/2020plan. Proposed attendance maps can also be viewed at the schools impacted by the changes, the JP Schools Administration Building at 501 Manhattan Blvd. in Harvey, or the Paul Emenes Building at 822 S. Clearview Pkwy. in Harahan.

How many students attend the four schools proposed for closure?

The four schools proposed for closure have a total of 1,200 students, or about 300 students per school. This is well below the capacity for the buildings that house these schools. Here are two examples. In 1969, Thibodeaux Elementary (formerly Westwego Elementary) had 763 students. Today, the school has 297 students. In 1969, Washington Elementary had an enrollment of 720 students. Today, the school has 274 students.

I am at a school expanding to K-8/additional students through consolidation/redistricting. I feel like my school is already crowded enough. How will it hold additional students?

One of the main objectives of the plan was to make for more efficient use of our facilities. Jefferson Parish Schools consulted with a third party and conducted its own building capacity study. The results show that most of our buildings are under capacity. The consolidations and expansions in this plan will place the impacted school buildings at adequate capacity (which is 71%-94% capacity) or less. Some schools will add students, while others will have less students. You can view the full plan at jpschools.org/2020plan.

What does this plan include besides consolidating schools and adding five new K-8s?

This is a comprehensive plan that maintains educator jobs, upgrades teacher technology, expands student behavioral and mental health services, creates additional seats for pre-kindergarten and our Advanced Study Academies, enhances school choice options for families and add playgrounds to over a dozen campuses.