

Jefferson High School Modernization

Frequently Asked Questions

APRIL 2022

The Jefferson High School Modernization project was made possible thanks to the support of Portland voters and community members who helped to pass the 2020 School Improvement Bond.

What is the project timeline?

A Jefferson Master Planning Committee will be formed in the spring of 2022 to begin work with the design team on the master planning of the new school. That work is expected to last for several months. In addition, several public design workshops will be held to allow the greater community an opportunity to weigh in on the design process as it develops. After a master plan is finalized, the project moves into design followed by construction starting in 2024. A newly modernized Jefferson is scheduled to open at the start of the 2026-27 school year.

How will the project offer community members an opportunity for input?

PPS is seeking a diverse range of engaged citizens who can positively contribute to the process of creating a next generation high school in your community. The Jefferson Master Planning Committee (MPC) will include students, parents, teachers, alumni, administrators, PPS staff, partners, community representatives and a school board member. They will be involved in developing the master plan for a modernized Jefferson High School.

For those unable to join the MPC, they will still have opportunities to participate in a Jefferson Public Design Workshop or attend Town Hall Meetings during the planning process.

Why would some school buildings be modernized rather than replaced?

The decision to fully modernize or completely replace a school building depends on its age, historic significance, condition, deficiencies and size and programmatic space needs. PPS has many historic neighborhood schools. Historic buildings are being rehabilitated through the School Building Improvement Bond in a way that is consistent with the building's historical designations and building components, while providing up-to-date teaching and learning environments and more durable, sustainable finishes. Teachers, staff and families are involved in planning to help preserve the unique aspects of each school and its integration into the surrounding community.

What is the status of the Center for Black Student Excellence (CBSE) and how will it relate to the Jefferson project?

The CBSE is currently working on community engagement to help define educational strategies and physical facility improvements to support those strategies. That work may help inform master planning and design for the Jefferson project, depending on final outcomes of the CBSE master plan.

Will the site selection process for Harriet Tubman Middle School (HTMS) affect the Jefferson project?

HTMS site selection is on a separate timeline, but the two projects will be in close coordination with community engagement, neighborhood impacts and project outcomes..

Where will the Jefferson students go during construction?

The project team is prioritizing keeping students on site, but away from construction, during the construction phase in order to foster continuity of Jefferson programs such as the Middle College, performing and visual arts, and community partnerships. A more detailed review of opportunities and constraints for this option and others will occur during the master planning process.

How do I learn more about the project?

For more information and the latest updates visit the project website:

<https://www.pps.net/JeffersonBond>

Please join the Jefferson project mailing list at JHSBond@pps.net.