



PORTLAND  
**Public Schools**

## **Plans for the modernization of Cleveland, Jefferson, & Ida B. Wells High Schools move forward**

Portland Public Schools is pushing ahead with modernization plans for Cleveland, Jefferson, and Ida B. Wells High Schools—taking a smarter, more cost-efficient approach to deliver high-quality learning environments for students.

In response to rising construction costs, Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong and the Office of School Modernization (OSM) have been working to refine the plans, ensuring that every dollar is spent wisely without compromising the academic experience. On February 11, the PPS Board of Education [unanimously approved](#) a plan to restart the design process, focusing on right-sizing each school to maximize resources while maintaining strong programming.

[Resolution 7051 - to Adopt a Framework to Build High Quality High Schools in a Cost Efficient Manner-with attachment A](#) directs the Superintendent to use the set of Guidelines included in Attachment A to identify cost savings associated with reducing the building size and evaluating alternative building materials and systems. The Framework also directs the Superintendent to identify cost savings associated with the General Contractor costs, such as pre-construction fees, contractor fees, and general conditions.

The modernization plans at the three high school buildings will target a maximum building size of approximately 295,000 square feet, which is aligned with the size of previous high school modernizations. Teen Parent Centers will be provided only if there is a demonstrated need at the high school, and Health Clinics will be provided only where there is a commitment from a provider to operate the clinic.

During this cost reduction phase, the Office of School Modernization project teams from all three schools will work together and share lessons learned so that cost reductions in one project are

evaluated for the other projects. Because these projects are at different phases in their design and have different characteristics that drive their costs, their strategies for reducing costs will be customized to fit those characteristics.

In the near future, the OSM project teams for each school will reach out to their school communities with updates. The design teams will rely on the extensive public engagement work done so far to help guide their planning moving forward. The revised modernization plans for these schools are slated to be presented to the school board in early May.

PPS is committed to delivering safe, modern schools that support student success in every neighborhood across our city. We appreciate the trust the community has in us and, and we're making thoughtful decisions that keep our school modernization projects moving forward while making sure that every dollar is spent wisely.



## Portland Public Schools

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Portland Public Schools aspires to graduate compassionate, critical thinkers who are able to collaborate to solve problems, and lead a more socially-just world. Central to this goal is affirming and operationalizing our deeply held community value of racial equity, social justice and inclusion.