

New Jefferson High School Comprehensive Plan Approved



Jefferson High School

On Dec 13th 2022, the PPS Board of Education approved the Jefferson High School Modernization Comprehensive Plan. The plan was developed over the last several months with significant community engagement and includes a major renovation of the original 1909 building, (making it essentially a new building that keeps its historic exterior) and the construction of new additional buildings. The plan will also update the athletic fields adding a new grandstand and field house.

A new fine arts facility will be a focal point of the design. There will also be new spaces to support the strong partnerships with the Middle College Program at Portland Community College, as well as the nonprofits Self Enhancement, Inc., and Latino Network.

PPS is now moving forward with the next phase of the design process and is seeking volunteers to join the Jefferson Design Advisory Group (DAG). This group will be involved in developing the design by providing feedback on design details and options proposed by the project team. DAG members perform in an advisory role only. Decisions

on project details are the responsibility of the Office of School Modernization in collaboration with other District Leadership.

Anyone interested may apply for the DAG at <https://www.pps.net/JeffersonBond>. Committee members should plan on meeting about once a month in the evenings for about 6 months starting in early February.

Construction on a new Jefferson is set to begin in the summer of 2024. Students and staff will remain on campus during the phased construction work. This is a similar situation to what Lincoln High students experienced during their recent construction process.

The Jefferson project team is prioritizing keeping students on site, but away from construction in order to foster continuity of Jefferson programs such as the Middle College, performing and visual arts, and community partnerships. Jefferson is the 7th PPS high school to be modernized and the only high school to be funded exclusively by the 2020 Bond. The remaining high schools, Cleveland and Ida B. Wells are slated to be modernized through a future bond.



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