

MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STRATEGIC FACILITIES PLAN
FINAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES December 18, 2013

Guiding Principles have emerged from each of the exercises during the ASSESS and EXPLORE phases, as well as the work of the Steering Committee. The Guiding Principles were divided into three categories focused on Facilities, Teaching, Learning & Administrative and Community Partnerships. 13 Steering Committee Members provided feedback on the 32 guiding principles with suggestions regarding consolidation, re-statement and clarification. The 12 facility-related guiding principles will be used by the Expanded Education Innovation Teams and the Steering Committee to provide a deep review of each of the seven options for all 31 sites and facilities. The guiding principles focused on Teaching, Learning & Administrative and Community Partnerships will be included by reference in the final report.



Facilities

1. Facility has an obvious main entrance with exterior visibility from reception area, electronic locks and secure zone for receiving visitors
2. The building and grounds are integrated as a unified learning environment
3. Administration, guidance and other specialists are distributed throughout learning areas in order to mentor teachers and know students
4. Spaces, schedules and furnishings are flexible with minimal economic impact/physical effort and include flexible spaces for collaboration, projects, instruction, technology, presentations and socializing
5. Technology is distributed throughout buildings with portable and flexible equipment supported by robust wireless access in order to support critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity
6. Schools are sized to support effective collaborative teams of 3-5 teachers/staff per grade level in elementary and middle school or in grade level houses, career pathways or academies in high schools resulting in elementary schools of 350-450 students, middle schools of 500-750 students and high schools of 1200-2250 students
7. Schools are geographically dispersed to maintain neighborhood PK-5 schools to the greatest extent possible; provide flexibility in enrollment over time ; support walking/bicycling to school and maximize the number of students within ¼- 1 mile of schools
8. High schools are organized to focus on the 9th grade transition from MCPS middle schools and the 11 outlying K-8 schools, supported by teacher /staff teams sharing the same students, linking elements of the curriculum, and identifying space for each Grade 9 team
9. Deferred maintenance , accessibility and energy projects are addressed
10. Buildings minimize environmental impact through use of existing buildings where feasible, high efficiency Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and lighting systems, use of local/renewable energy sources and use of the school throughout the year
11. Cost of operating and maintaining facilities is affordable and sustainable
12. Option represents highest and best use of MCPS resources

Teaching, Learning, Administrative

13. Evidence of learning is readily visible throughout school, community and virtual world
14. Teachers and staff have control of schedule and space to collaborate as a team focused on developing meaningful relationships with students
15. Students learn through projects, discussions, just in time lecturing, internships
16. K-5 students attend middle school as a unit
17. Middle schools are balanced in size, and organized to focus on the transition from grade 5 to 6
18. The existing grade level structure (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) is maintained, but , does not preclude innovations such as co-locating middle schools at high schools, elementary schools on middle school or high school campuses, thematic learning centers or PK-20 campuses
19. All MCPS schools share a common daily schedule to provide time for transportation to other programs, internships, etc.
20. Menu includes fresh, locally grown food, multiple menu options, prepared and served by dining staff and learners, with breakfast and after school meals offered
21. The design, renovation, construction and operation of buildings is integrated into curriculum

Community Partnerships

22. Children and families are engaged in learning in early child and pre-kindergarten programs and continue to be key partners through graduation and beyond
23. Schools, community partners and businesses collaborate meet diverse neighborhood, community, parent and volunteer needs
24. MCPS Facilities Strategic Plan is aligned with City of Missoula and Missoula County Growth Plans and coordinated with the 11 K-8 Schools in our region
25. Community outreach addresses impacts on families and the community including impacts on after school programs, camps, student jobs, custodial vacations, major maintenance projects