

FORWARD

A comprehensive facilities assessment and study of the Lancaster County VA public school facilities will assist the Lancaster County Public School Board, staff and community in the decision making process regarding the future utilization and disposition of its educational facilities. As such, the report would provide information regarding the current overall status of the facilities; with respect to the physical condition as well as the educational adequacy, building capacity for current and projected student enrollment, and community use.

Principles of the Report

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Code of Virginia, as well as the Departments of Education, Environmental Quality, and Labor & Industry have established guidelines and considerations for school programs, school sites, buildings and supporting facilities needed to provide a well-rounded, complete and safe educational experience for the students. These include:

- Curriculum regulations, including Virginia Standards of Learning, implementation of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (NCLB), and changing Special Education and Programming requirements that will continue to impact facilities.
- School sites must be of adequate size to provide for the safety of the students, provide outdoor play areas, bus loading and unloading and parking for staff and visitors.
- Learning environments should be learner-centered, developmentally and age appropriate, safe, comfortable, accessible, flexible, and equitable, in addition to being cost effective.
- School facilities should meet the educational, physical, intellectual, social and emotional needs of students and create an environment that will encourage students to learn.
- Flexibility in design, including providing spaces for 21st century collaborative and hands-on learning opportunities, is critical and essential for educational facilities.
- With the ability to communicate globally and the information explosion that technology has facilitated, schools will need to remain flexible and adaptable to respond to twenty first century educational technology and teaching and learning styles.
- Cost of school construction, energy and ongoing maintenance and operation of school facilities will continue to be a major financial impact to school districts. It will become increasingly important to consider cost effective solutions to address these ongoing important issues.

The development of a Facilities Study should incorporate these guidelines and considerations, in addition to the specific and localized needs of the Lancaster County Public School Division; including the school board, administration, staff, students and the community.

INTRODUCTION

A long range **Master Facilities Plan** will ensure that the Lancaster County public school facilities are able to meet future student and community needs, as well as guide the School Division, providing a road map for the maintenance, improvement, and educational use of its facilities in to the future.

A Master Plan should be an important goal of the Lancaster County public school division Schools Comprehensive Plan to “Improve Effectiveness and Efficiency of Operations”, and would:

- Address both the short-term and long-term facility needs of the Division;
- Consider the Educational Philosophy of the School Division;
- Consider the Goals and Objective of the School Division;
- Consider Stakeholder Input;
- Consider the condition of the Current Facilities;

A Master Facilities Plan would address:

- **Building Capacity and Utilization Analysis**
- **Facility Capacity vs Enrollment Impact Analysis.**
- **Evaluation of the Educational Philosophy and Program as implemented in the current facilities.**
 - Educational Adequacy
 - Overall educational environment
 - Improvement of learning spaces
 - Space needs
- **Assessment of the Physical Condition of each Facility to include the following analysis:**
 - Site
 - Life-Safety & Building Code
 - Physical Plant
 - Operational Systems
 - Aesthetics
- **Facility Appraisal & Recommendations**
 - Deferred maintenance
 - Immediate recommendations
 - Short-term recommendations
 - Long-term recommendations
- **Master Plan Options**
 - Scenarios
 - Costs
 - Implementation plan

PURPOSE

- ❖ The purpose of a Facility Master Plan is to provide a road map from the existing Lancaster County Public school facilities, to a consensus future vision of educational environments that is fully aligned with the mission of the school division.
- ❖ A Facilities Master plan will serve as the basis for communicating the need for school facility improvement and / or new facilities to assist the School Division in the process of gaining community support for identified needs and improvements.

A Master Facilities Plan would provide the Lancaster County Public School Division with a detailed evaluation, recommendations and the information necessary to identify and prioritize facility goals, as well as a compass to keep the school division moving toward accomplishing those goals.



“The Vision of the 21st century school is one that is and student centered and teacher facilitated, supporting real-world, authentic project based learning; STEM driven and supported by instructional technology. Globalization and rapid technological advancements will continue to affect school design into the twenty-first century.

Schools and their instructional spaces, technology and communities will change over time, in ways that cannot yet be predicted. Technology will increasingly become more essential for learning, requiring school facilities to be flexible and adjustable in their organization and use of space”

PROCESS

1. Project Start-Up

- *Kick-off Meeting(s)*
 - *Setting goals*
 - *Establishing parameters*
 - *Process & schedule*
- *Web-based planning surveys*

Vision

2. Data Collection & Analysis

- *Community Overview*
- *Facilities Assessment*
 - *Physical Plant*
 - *Program*
- *Meetings w/ Stakeholders*

Assessment

3. Facility Appraisal & Recommendations

- *Site / Athletic facilities*
- *Operational*
- *Educational*

Recommendations

4. Masterplan Framework & Community Dialogue

- *Current facilities*
- *Best practice planning*
- *Priorities*

Validation

5. Draft Masterplan

- *Recommendations*
- *Options*

6. Final Masterplan

- *School Board & Community Dialogue*
- *Implementation*

Masterplan

