



Mergers



Merge Charles Dickens with A.J. Rickoff

Recommendation: Merge Charles Dickens with A.J. Rickoff

Overview of School Action



Merging Charles Dickens with A.J. Rickoff will benefit both schools through a higher-quality student experience, including additional courses beyond art, music, and PE – along with expanded sports

Charles Dickens

- Charles Dickens's enrollment is unsustainably low and declining, limiting the school's ability to offer a robust student experience
- There are available seats in the region that are in good condition buildings and will allow for a higher-quality student experience
- Specifically, students will have a reserved seat at A.J. Rickoff, a school with a comparable star rating (both 2 stars) housed in a larger building with planned and in-progress investments

Andrew J. Rickoff (A.J. Rickoff)

- A.J. Rickoff is in a large, relatively new building with planned and in-progress investments and a need for greater enrollment to sustainably offer more opportunities for students
- A.J. Rickoff will continue to serve students in its current location, welcoming students from Charles Dickens

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Transitioning School Data: Charles Dickens



Transitioning School Data: Charles Dickens		How the data informed the recommendation
K-8 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 242	• Enrollment is very low compared to the 450-student target for K-8s • 450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● -34%	• Enrollment has fallen at a more significant rate than the district median (-12%)
Building Condition Score	● 81	• The building is in good condition and is an ideal candidate for reuse • We are committed to working with the city and community partners to ensure this building benefits the community for many years to come
Building Planning Capacity	520	• The building is large enough to hold 2 classes per grade • While the building is large enough to hold 2 classes per grade, enrollment is below the building's planning capacity, requiring resources that could otherwise be used for students and staff

K-8 Enrollment

- Strong (>450)
- Low (360-450)
- Very low (<360)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity

- Below 450

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Welcoming School Data: A.J. Rickoff



Welcoming School Data: A.J. Rickoff		How the data informed the recommendation
K-8 Enrollment (SY 24-25)	● 403	- While stronger than many nearby schools, enrollment is still below the 450-student target for K-8s 450 is the level at which a school can sustainably offer more opportunities for students
Enrollment Trend (2019-2025)	● -5%	Enrollment has fallen, but at a less significant rate than the district median (-12%) - Continued enrollment decline threatens the ability to provide a robust student experience in the future
Building Condition Score	● 64	- Low building condition score is primarily driven by the building's foundation, which is under review for repair; building was constructed in 2004 and is in otherwise good condition - The planned and in-progress investments will move the building condition score from Poor to Good, allowing students to be served in an upgraded building
Building Planning Capacity	735	- The building is large enough to hold 3 classes per grade - Achieving strong enrollment will ensure this space is used most effectively for students

K-8 Enrollment

- Strong (>450)
- Low (360-450)
- Very low (<360)

Enrollment Trend

- >0% growth
- 0-12% decline
- >12% decline

Building Condition Score

- Like New/Good >80
- Fair/Poor 60-80
- Unsatisfactory <60

Building Planning Capacity

- Below 450

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Student Experience



Merging Charles Dickens with A.J. Rickoff will **allow all students access to additional courses beyond art, music, and PE – along with expanded sports**

	Charles Dickens <i>SY 2025-26</i>	A.J. Rickoff <i>SY 2025-26</i>	A.J. Rickoff (merged) <i>SY 2026-27</i>	
 Course options	3	3	4 or more	} <i>Students will have more academic and extracurricular opportunities available to them</i>
 Sport options	2	3	4 or more	

Additionally, in school year 2026-27, A.J. Rickoff will offer:



More options and better participation in **clubs and extracurricular activities**



Continued student supports to meet academic, physical and mental health, and language needs



Space and support for students served in **self-contained special education and PreK classrooms**

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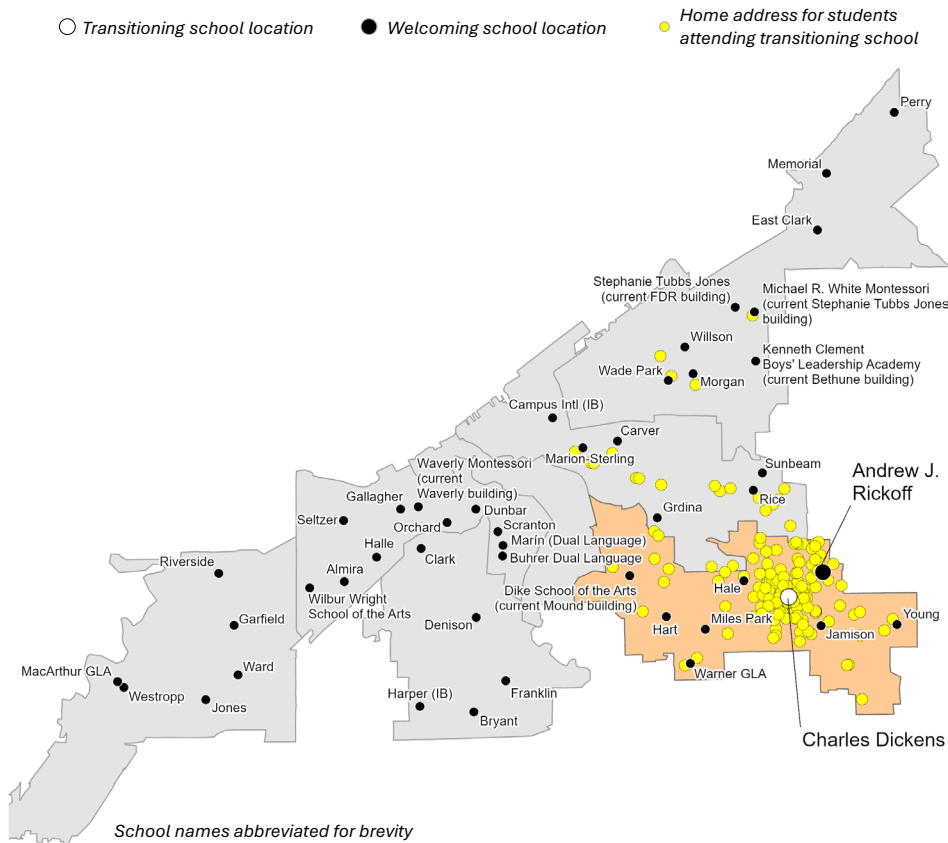
Map View



Students at **Charles Dickens** have a reserved seat at **A.J. Rickoff**

Star rating	★★
Building condition score	64 (Planned and in-progress investments will improve the building condition score to >80)
Address	3500 E 147 th St
Distance between schools	1.2 miles
Transportation*	Current Dickens students who accept this reserved seat and reside within 3 miles of Dickens and more than a mile from A.J. Rickoff are eligible for transportation to A.J. Rickoff for SY 26-27 and SY 27-28.

*All students with transportation-related accommodations on their IEP will continue to receive transportation, regardless of where they live.



If you would like to explore other options, students currently at Charles Dickens will also receive first priority for available seats at all schools they are eligible to attend during the School Choice application process, which launches in January.

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Looking Ahead



Transitioning school

Charles Dickens students in grades K-7 have a reserved seat at A.J. Rickoff and first priority for *available seats* at all other schools during the School Choice Process.

Welcoming school

A.J. Rickoff students in grades K-7 do not need to participate in School Choice to remain at their current school.



School choice

Families can use the CMSD School Finder and School Choice Book to better understand their options starting in December.

School Choice will launch in January and run through the end of February.



Leadership

Principals for the 2026-27 school year will be appointed in December.



Staff

Staff assignments will be confirmed in Spring 2026, following the School Choice process.

School staff teams will be merged in alignment with our contractual obligations, enrollment, and the needs of the merged student community.



School community

Students, families, and staff will have opportunities to connect and collaborate around the future of the unified school community over the course of the spring and summer before the start of the 2026-27 school year.

All current 8th graders across CMSD will continue to be supported in making a high school choice.

Special education single classrooms will still be offered at multiple schools in every region. Families whose children are in these specialized classrooms will get additional outreach and support to enroll.