



CITYWIDE ANALYSIS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the purpose of the Citywide Analysis for Long-Term Planning?

A. The Citywide Analysis is a comprehensive resource to engage the Cleveland community in school planning using the same information considered by District and charter school leaders when assessing how best to plan for quality schools in every neighborhood. It will enable educators, community members and families to work from the same set of facts as we engage together in thoughtful planning for schools across Cleveland.

Q. What data is included in the Citywide Analysis?

A. This Citywide Analysis includes data on academic quality, enrollment and school choice patterns, program viability and building use and condition. It provides data at three different levels — citywide, by region and at the school level — for both District and charter K-8 schools and high schools.

Q. Why is the District focused on Long-Term School Planning?

A. The Long-Term School Planning process was prompted by several factors. Cleveland's population and school enrollment patterns have changed significantly since the District's Master Facilities Plan was last updated five years ago. Additionally, construction costs have increased and funding for construction has shifted. In light of these changes, the Cleveland Board of





Education and the independent Bond Accountability Commission called on the District to revisit the Facilities Plan to ensure taxpayer investment in Cleveland’s public schools meets the needs of the school community. Furthermore, there have been numerous investments to improve the quality of schools, including redesigns of 13 K-8 schools and numerous new and redesigned high schools. Beyond tweaking our plans for building construction and renovation, the Long-Term Planning process is also allowing us to take an important step toward aligning and integrating our academic and facilities planning.

Q. Does the Citywide Analysis include recommendations or decisions about what future actions should be taken regarding the city’s schools?

A. While the report presents data analysis, it does not make recommendations or develop action steps. Instead, it was designed to provide the most accurate and comprehensive information needed for the community to understand the current state of schools in their region. Among other potential applications, the Citywide Analysis will serve as a key input — in concert with community feedback — to the Long-Term School Plan for the District. The emerging recommendations for K-8 schools, as well as community feedback on those items, are available at QualitySchoolsforCLEkids.org. High school recommendations will be forthcoming following this fall’s community meetings.

Q. Does the district plan to address academic performance through this process?

A. While academic performance and trends are considered and evaluated in the Citywide Analysis, this process is not intended to prescribe specific remedies surrounding academic programming. Though some of the recommendations voted upon by the Board of Education may have implications for academic programs and how we can better align these programs with available facilities, most of the work around strategic academic improvements will be determined through the District’s annual evaluation and decision cycle that has resulted in past actions such as the redesign of 13 K-8 programs as noted above.



Q. How is this different from plans like the previous Master Facilities Plan or the reports like the IFFs “A Shared Responsibility: Ensuring Quality Education in Every Cleveland Neighborhood?”

A. The Citywide Analysis for Long-Term Planning expands on the work of previous plans. It is different in four key ways.

First, it is intended as a shared resource for Cleveland and includes data for District, charter and private/parochial schools, whenever possible. Secondly, it pulls together the most complete and detailed set of data and analysis to date, sharing academic quality, enrollment, financial viability and building use and condition data for K-8 schools and high schools at three levels — citywide, regional and school and/or building. Thirdly, the Citywide Analysis draws on the latest data available, much of which has changed since 2014 when previous plans were conducted, and sets the intention of regular updates to the data in the future. Finally, the Citywide Analysis is forward-looking, incorporating the most detailed and accurate enrollment forecast available to date.

Q. How were the regions determined?

A. The regions were designed to balance student populations, recognize neighborhood boundaries and keep City Council wards and City Planning Areas together where possible.

Q. How are PreK and Special Education incorporated into the Citywide Analysis?

A. Program viability calculations use K-12 enrollment because PreK students are counted in a different way. All K-12 students, both general education and special education, are accounted for. In calculating building capacity, CMSD classrooms primarily used for Pre-K or self-contained special education students are deducted from classroom counts due to their unique (and often much smaller) maximum capacity levels. For utilization, adjusted capacity is divided by PreK-12 enrollment, which includes all students.

Q. How was future enrollment forecast?

A. Many districts enlist technical experts to forecast future enrollment trends for planning purposes. The Citywide Analysis incorporates the future enrollment analysis of Lapkoff-Gobalet Demographic Research, a firm with several decades of experience working with school districts. Cleveland's forecast is based on five years of historical data and looks at how many students will reside by grade level and by region of residence over the next five years.

Q. Was the enrollment forecast calculated at the school level?

A. No. Because of the impact from program changes and the movement of families from year to year, the forecast was based on the region and grade. This method often proves to be more accurate.

Q. Is the impact of Say Yes to Education incorporated into the forecast?

A. No. We are optimistic that Say Yes may increase enrollment, but data from other cities is limited. CMSD will monitor the impact on enrollment over the next two years and will update the forecast accordingly.

Q. Who was involved in the Citywide Analysis?

A. A project team from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District led the aggregation, analysis and publication of the Citywide Analysis with support from external experts. All charters operating in Cleveland had the opportunity to review and validate their individual data as well.

Q. When will decisions be made?

A. While the Board of Education had initially intended on voting on K-8 recommendations in June of this year, its members decided at that time to defer those decisions until this fall. This will allow them the opportunity to hear more from the community, gather additional information, and learn more about the intersection between K-8 recommendations and the forthcoming high school recommendations. These items would include any changes to the 2014 Master Facilities Plan. The Board is now expected to vote following the upcoming round of meetings — and before the end of the calendar year — on both K-8 and high school recommendations.



Q. How will decisions be made?

A. No single piece of analysis or input will drive the recommendations presented to the Board in the Long-Term School Plan. Instead, we will work together, starting from a foundation of common and comprehensive facts, and considering all feedback received about this Citywide Analysis from community members, to build out recommendations on the academic and facilities actions that will have the most impact on our ultimate goal of quality schools for all of Cleveland's kids.

Q. How can we participate?

A. The complete set of data and analysis has been made publicly available so that we can all ground our conversations in a common set of comprehensive facts. We encourage you to visit QualitySchoolsforCLEkids.org to explore the resources available, including a User Guide to help orient you to the Citywide Analysis, an interactive map of data on all of Cleveland's District and charter schools, a schedule of public meetings and a form for questions and comments.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon is leading meetings across the city around the Citywide Analysis and emerging recommendations. A schedule may be found at QualitySchoolsforCLEkids.org — we encourage you to attend a meeting near you.