

Emailed to CASD Families, July 21, 2023



CARLISLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Excellence in Education*

Dear CASD faculty, staff, and families,

I am excited to provide a brief update on the work of our Exploring K-8 Facilities Committee. After three meetings, we are halfway through our summer work. [Click here to watch a brief video that walks you through that work.](#)

The committee has reviewed some enrollment information showing plans for new housing developments in the northern end of the school district, sending students to Bellaire, Crestview, and Hamilton Elementary Schools, Wilson Middle School, and the high school.

With the assistance of an experienced Facilities Use Firm, Crabtree, Rohrbaugh and Associates, we have reviewed 9 different models to reconfigure our schools and quickly eliminated several of them. [Click here to see which models we eliminated.](#)

Our committee worked to develop a list of priorities for this project, and then in small groups, considered each model along with those priorities and then shared their work with the full group. [Click here for the priority list and beliefs.](#)

Our committee is also evaluating numerous factors – such as the strengths and challenges of each model, the number of transitions for students from one school to another, the length of bus rides, the class sizes, and programming needs.

At our next meeting on July 31st, our committee will explore an additional model in which our elementaries would convert to grades kindergarten through fourth, middle schools would convert to fifth and sixth grades, and the district would build a new seventh and eighth grade building. In this model, we would close one elementary school.

The committee will also begin to explore financial impacts of the models, and more closely look at transportation and staffing.

We will continue to keep you updated. No decisions have been made, and our work will continue. Ultimately, our committee will make a present our work and make a recommendation to our School Board in October. The Board must evaluate and then vote on a recommended plan.

Thank you for your continued interest and support for our school district.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Friend, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Carlisle Area School District