

# LOWELL SCHOOL DISTRICT 10-Year Facilities Planning QUICK FACTS



## Planning for the Future

Lowell School District has completed its 10-Year Master Planning process and is inviting Lowell families and community members to learn more about the facility assessment findings, resulting recommendations and prioritization of work.

Combined with recent growth and the age of our buildings, it is important that we address the situation.

## Developing a Master Plan

The Master Plan process launched in May 2015. The goal of the project was to review all Lowell School District facilities in the context of current needs, enrollment and projections for the next decade. Community members, teachers, students and others who use the buildings were invited to participate.

The result of the work is a Master Plan that considers the condition of existing facilities. It also identifies long-term solutions to some enduring space issues. The plan was developed by gLAs Architects, which specializes in public use spaces and schools.

Together with the School Board and Superintendent, gLAs has identified the most urgent work. The district has prioritized efforts as follows:

1. Student safety and security
2. Renewal efforts that will prolong the lifespan of existing facilities
3. Facilities that will improve the educational experience of students
4. Repurposing or reorganizing of space for improved efficiency
5. Multi-use gathering places for school and community use

## The Role of Growth

After a long period of declining or stable enrollment, Lowell School District is growing rapidly and is using every room in both buildings.

District enrollment has increased 39 percent in the last two years. Increased enrollment is an indicator of a healthy community and it's a challenge we are pleased to address. However, it is impacting our facilities. In 2013, the district had approximately 245 students in the two school buildings, Lundy Elementary and Lowell High School. Over the last two years, the schools have grown to nearly 400 students in the two buildings.

## Choosing a Path

The district is determining how best to proceed with the recommendations. The most critical work is estimated to cost \$8 million. The possibility of \$4 million in grants from the state of Oregon is prompting us to move quickly. It is possible that the district will request approval of a bond measure to pay for the improvements.



*Lowell High School was built in 1930, during the Great Depression and before World War II. Thanks to past investments by the community, the facility remains serviceable for students, but is in need of some TLC as well as safety, security and space updates to bring it in line with the needs of today's students.*



## Setting Priorities

The items the district considers most important follow. The Master Plan considers a number of them essential if we are to gain 20 more years of useful life from the facilities. We have been alerted that the failure to make the improvements will shorten the service life of equipment, systems and/or facilities and prompt the need for full replacements much sooner than if investment is made now.

**Security and safety upgrades** for Lundy Elementary and Lowell High School include:

- Centralized magnetic door controls for lockdowns
- Site access controls and security cameras
- Seismic improvements to facility and equipment, including anchoring
- Sprinklers and other fire suppression, safety systems
- Electronic door entrances to limit access to students, staff and authorized visitors
- Replacement of old interior and exterior doors with locking doors compliant with security criteria
- ADA improvements for safe access for all students
- Perimeter fencing at Lowell High, to secure building

**Improvements for adequate learning spaces** include:

- Upgrade of science classrooms and equipment to modern standards
- Addition of kindergarten and pre-kindergarten classrooms, with bathrooms
- Indirectly, improved efficiencies will allow funds for programming and staffing to be used there, instead of for facilities

**Renewal and replacement of vital building systems** focus on efficiency measures and addressing maintenance needs.

- Plumbing and electrical updates for safety and efficiency
- Replace classroom lighting – some of which is 70 years old – with brighter, energy-saving LEDs
- Repairs to seriously deteriorated areas of both facilities
- Replacement of asbestos and broken and deteriorated flooring

**If matching grants from the state are allocated as hoped**, the district will have funds to be able to:

- Convert old gym into a multi-use cafeteria and common space for eating, performing arts students, and for community use after school hours
- Convert existing concession space and adjacent windowless classroom into food prep and serving area that would be located next to the “new” cafeteria
- Build a new, regulation-sized, ADA-accessible gym and wrestling room
- Re-purpose and develop the old/existing cafeteria into new classroom space(s)

## For more information

For more information about the project, or if you have specific questions, please contact us: [www.lowell.k12.or.us](http://www.lowell.k12.or.us) (541) 937-2124



*Lowell's Lundy Elementary was built in 1941 — 75 years ago. Investments made now will help it continue to serve students.*