

Saint Paul Public Schools' Facilities Principles

GOAL 1: ACHIEVEMENT

Racial Equity Transformation, Personalized Learning, Ready for College and Career

Provide an outstanding and equitable education for all students through strong leadership, well-rounded curriculum and data-driven decisions



- **SPPS is committed to creating environments that foster personalized learning and collaboration**

This means:

- *Learning environments are learner focused, and respect different learners needs and styles*
- *Learning environments accommodate all abilities and mobilities*
- *Facilities will provide adequate space for consultants and specialists (OT's, PT's, social workers)*
- *Learning environments are flexible and provide learning setting choices i.e. small groups, individual, larger groups*
- *Learning environment are developmentally and age appropriate*
- *Learning environments that accommodate a variety of types of learning (i.e. quiet, hands on learning, kinetic, etc)*
- *There is professional space for teachers that support staff development, PLCs (Professional Learning Communities), and that allow staff to model collaboration*

- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that support college and career readiness**

This means:

- *Labs/ spaces that provide opportunities to learn and apply career skills*
- *Facilities will provide spaces for life-long learning*

- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that support authentic and experiential learning**

This means:

- *Facilities are designed so the building is a teaching tool*
- *Facilities will have a variety of spaces and flexibility to support all learning styles and modalities*
- *Facilities will provide space for hands-on, experiential opportunities including visual and performing arts, extracurricular opportunities, and athletics and physical activity*

- **SPPS is committed to providing flexible, adaptable learning environments**

This means:

- *Learning environments are adaptable to changes in teaching styles and diverse learners*
- *Facilities are adaptable for the future*
- *Facilities will have flexible spaces that accommodate a variety of learning styles and settings*
- *Facilities will include student designed spaces that include mobility of furniture, walls, and décor*
- *Facilities are designed to engage students mentally and physically*

- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that are adaptable to respond to future technologies**

This means:

- *Facilities will be easily retrofit to adapt to evolving needs to access content and communication*
- *Facilities will continue to stay relevant to a fast changing world and the learners who will live and work in it*
- *Technology must be supported by physical improvements, such as furniture and media (e.g. white boards, communal work space, etc)*
- *Technology supports learning anywhere, anytime*

GOAL 2: ALIGNMENT

Excellent PK-12 Programs with Connected Pathways

Coordinate school programs and supports to reinforce student learning



- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that support access for all**

This means facilities will:

- Create welcoming, safe spaces that encourage inclusiveness
- Promote physical comfort with natural light, good air quality and clear traffic flow
- Provide space for students, staff and visitors with disabilities
- Reflect and fit the physical needs of all learners and staff and visitors
- Address multi-lingual needs of learners and families
- Accommodate and respect the race, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, and disability of all occupants

- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that promote equity for all**

This means:

- Learning environments are student focused and teacher friendly
- All learning styles are addressed in all buildings
- There is equitable access to facilities across the district
- Facility decisions are based on the needs of learners

- **SPPS is committed to having its facilities used by, reflect and connect to the community and neighborhoods**

This means facilities:

- Are community assets that are accessible, multi-functional and welcoming to the whole community
- Will foster life-long learning
- Will provide spaces that are flexible and adaptable for all stakeholders
- Are designed and sited to connect them to their neighborhoods
- Become hubs/centers in their neighborhoods
- Reflect demographics and population change across Saint Paul
- Leverage public and private partnerships to share space / infrastructure in order to ensure efficiency

- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that foster partnerships and community connections**

This means facilities:

- Will provide spaces for community use
- Are designed for after hours use
- Will create space to collaborate with external stake-holders, community partners, families, and learners
- Will be designed to support other community needs as they can

- **SPPS is committed to providing facilities that support connectivity to the natural environment and the outdoors**

This means:

- Facilities will be designed and planned to have a positive impact on the natural environment
- Facilities will be connected to green space
- Facilities will have safe outdoor spaces that are intentionally part of the instructional opportunities in active and passive ways

Examples might include:

- Vegetable gardens
- Rain gardens
- Ponds
- Shady groves
- Play areas
- Wind and solar power
- Anything that fosters student understanding of their impact and connection to their natural environment

GOAL 3: SUSTAINABILITY

Systems that Support a Premier Education

Continue to be efficient and effective with our budget decisions to maximize classroom resources and create and academic plan focused on results

- **SPPS is committed to excellence in the design and construction of facilities and grounds**

This means:

- Schools are perceived by parents and the community to be high quality by having facilities and grounds that are attractive and well maintained, signifying the community's investment in them
- Facilities foster creativity, invite pride, meet the needs of students and staff and are designed to promote academic achievement
- Materials (construction, carpeting, furniture) are based on quality design and are of high industry standard
- Learning environments are comfortable and inspiring
- Operation of facilities are cost effective and efficient
- Facilities will respect their historical integrity
- Design, environmental stewardship, natural daylighting, and siting of buildings are thoughtfully considered



- **SPPS is committed to utilizing sustainable principles in the siting, design and operations of its facilities**

This means:

- Sites will encourage and promote multiple modes of transportation (walking, biking, transit, etc.)
- Design will maximize natural light and use renewable resources
- Operations will minimize energy use and waste, and plan for maximizing reuse (e.g. compost, water, etc.)
- Design will consider increased climate variation (severe heat, significant rain, storms, etc.)

- **SPPS is committed to understanding and minimizing the impact our facilities have on the environment**

This means:

- The District will comprehensively plan to minimize the impact of our facilities on local watersheds
- The District will make targeted investments in energy improvements, including possible alternative energy sources
- Facility operations should constantly be reviewed to ensure consistency with industry best practices and energy efficiency
- The District will facilitate engagement with the environmental impact of our schools

- **SPPS is committed to environments that support and promote health and safety for all**

This means:

- Facilities will promote the idea that “healthy students are better learners”
- Facilities will support improved nutrition and an active school day by providing space that is flexible for eating and moving
- Facilities will meet regulatory guidelines
- Facilities will adapt to chronic disease management plans for students with asthma, hearing loss, diabetes, anaphylaxis, and allergies

- **SPPS is committed to environments that balance emergency preparedness with all of the Facility Principles**

This means:

- Facilities will be safe and inviting
- Facilities will provide appropriate access controls and communication systems for both daily and emergency use
- Facilities will support the systems necessary for natural and man-made disasters