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
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 an 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