

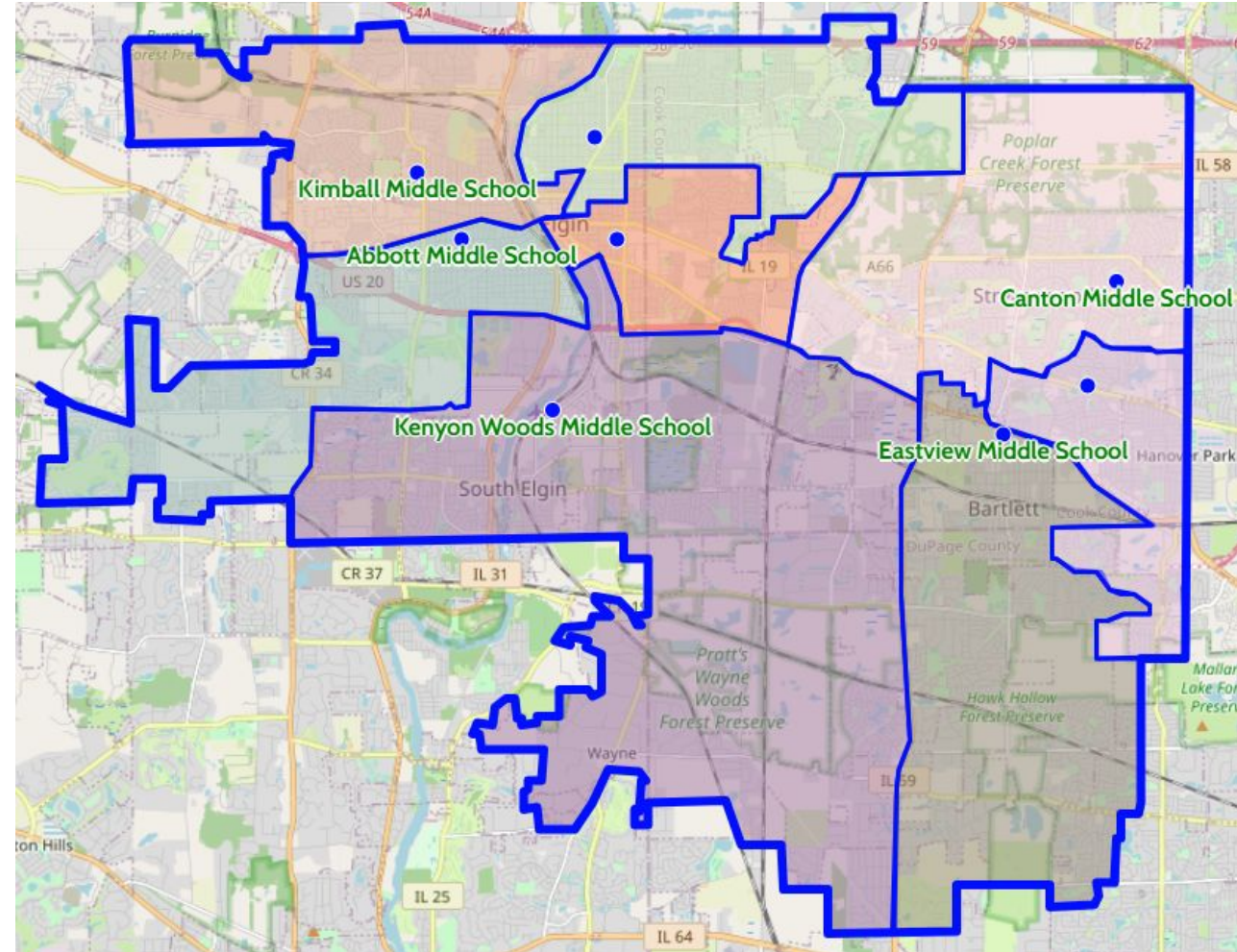
SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46



**December 18, 2023**  
**Update for Board of Education**

# Recent Unite U-46 Actions

- **Middle school recommendations approved**
  - Retiring Abbott, Ellis
  - Additions to Kimball, Kenyon Woods
  - Construction of a new middle school in Elgin
- **Board of Education to receive recommendations on elementary schools on December 18**



# Capital Project Cost Summary

## Middle Schools

SCHOOL	PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	EST. COMPLETION
<b>FUNDED BEFORE UNITE U-46 PLAN</b>			
New Middle School	Conversion of Hawk Hollow Elementary to middle school	\$58 Million	Summer 2025
<b>UNITE U-46 FUNDING INCLUDING REFERENDUM</b>			
<b>UNITE U-46 BOND ISSUE AND RESERVE FUNDING \$380 MILLION</b>			
New Middle School	Located in Elgin	\$110 Million	Summer 2026
Kimball Middle School	Addition to increase to 1,125 student capacity	\$50 million	Summer 2026
Kenyon Woods Middle School	Addition to increase to 1,125 student capacity	\$35 Million	Summer 2026
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$195 Million</b>	
Update Canton, Eastview, Larsen, Tefft Middle Schools	Secure front entrances, update STEM, science labs, add flexible/collaborative learning spaces	TBD	TBD
<b>Total</b>		<b>TBD</b>	

# Recent Unite U-46 Input

- Put students first
- Continue communication with the community
- Remain mindful of the rich history of our schools
- Increase equitable access to programs at more schools
- Ensure all schools are inclusive and accessible to all



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46



# *Refining The Plan*

## Elementary Building Analysis & Priorities



# Age of U-46 Elementary Schools



3 built prior to 1900



10 built between  
1900-1960



13 built between  
1960-1980



12 built since 1980

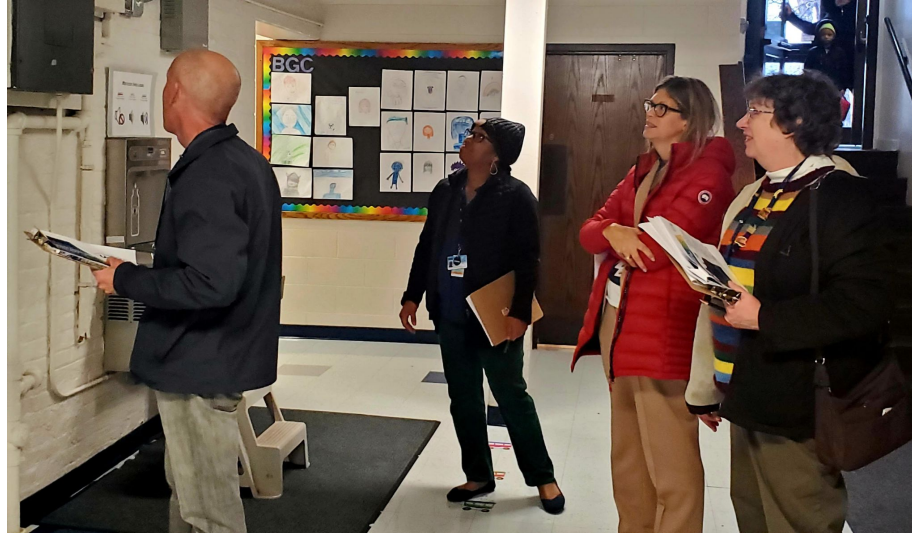
**68% of our elementary schools were built prior to 1980**

# Elementary schools identified to be rebuilt, renovated, or retired through Unite U-46



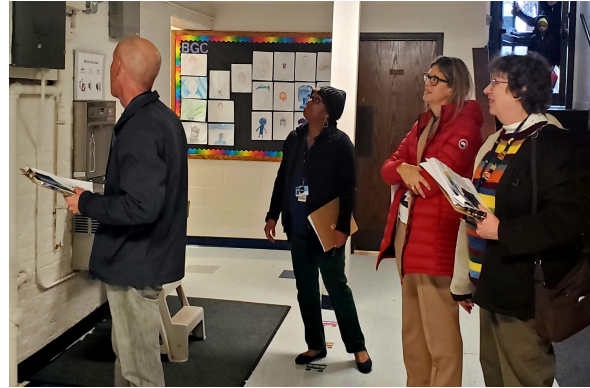


# Board Member Elementary School Visits





# Themes identified during Elementary School Visits



# Costs And Other Considerations With Maintaining An Elementary School

- **Operational costs - approximately \$100,000 per year**
  - Utilities, Groundskeeping, Snow Removal, etc.
- **Periodic major maintenance events - approximately \$1,000,000 per year (on average)**
  - Roof replacement, Boiler, HVAC, parking lot paving, etc.
- **Staffing considerations - approximately \$700,000 per year**
  - Principal, Assistant Principal, Secretary, Custodian, etc.

U-46 spends an average of \$2M per building on maintenance each year\*



# Focus On What's Right For Our Students

## Appropriate Class Sizes and Staffing

- Rebalance class sizes and staffing to provide the best opportunities for students.

## Grade Level Sections

- Multiple sections of grade levels
  - Provide additional opportunities
  - Support social development
- Reduce multi-grade classrooms

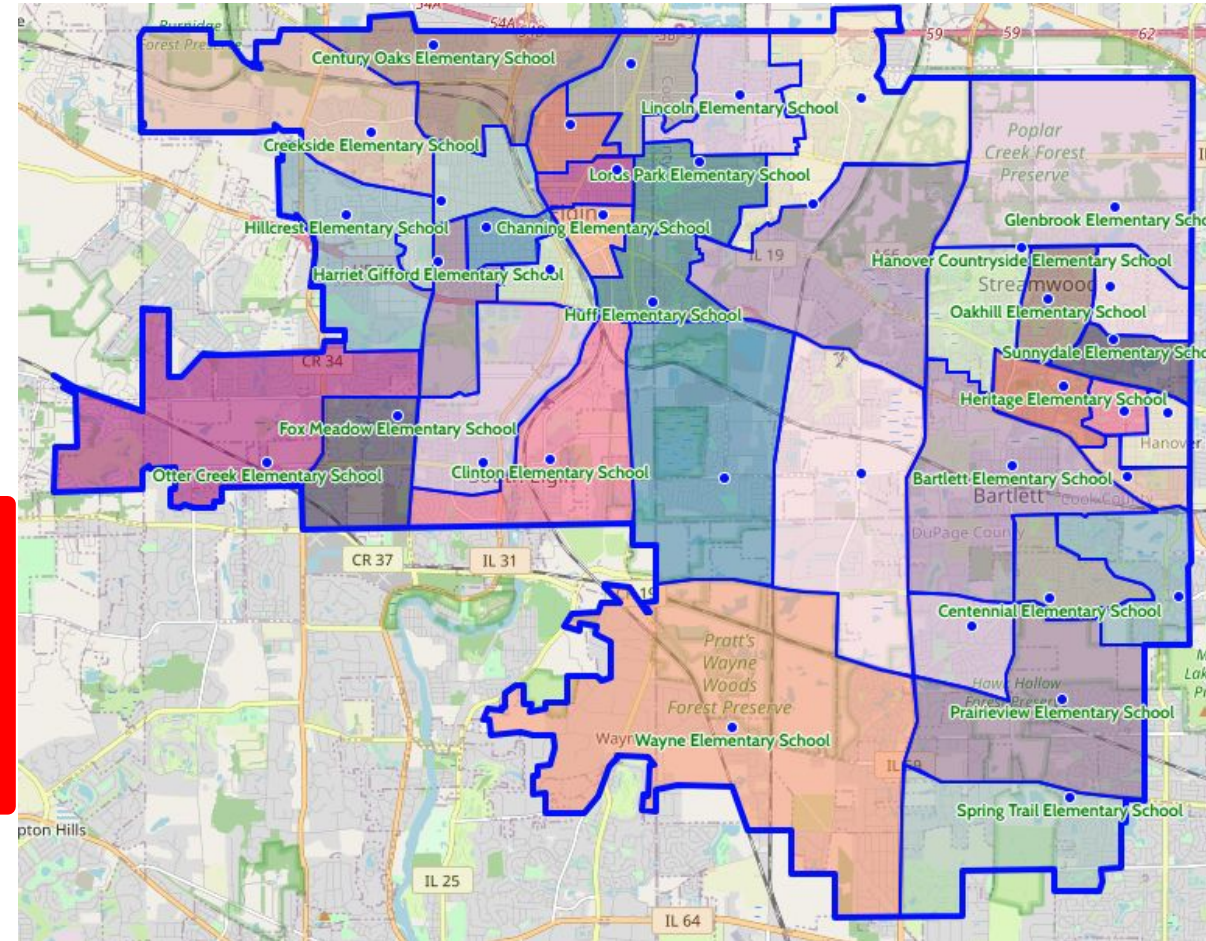


**Provide more students the opportunity to attend updated schools**

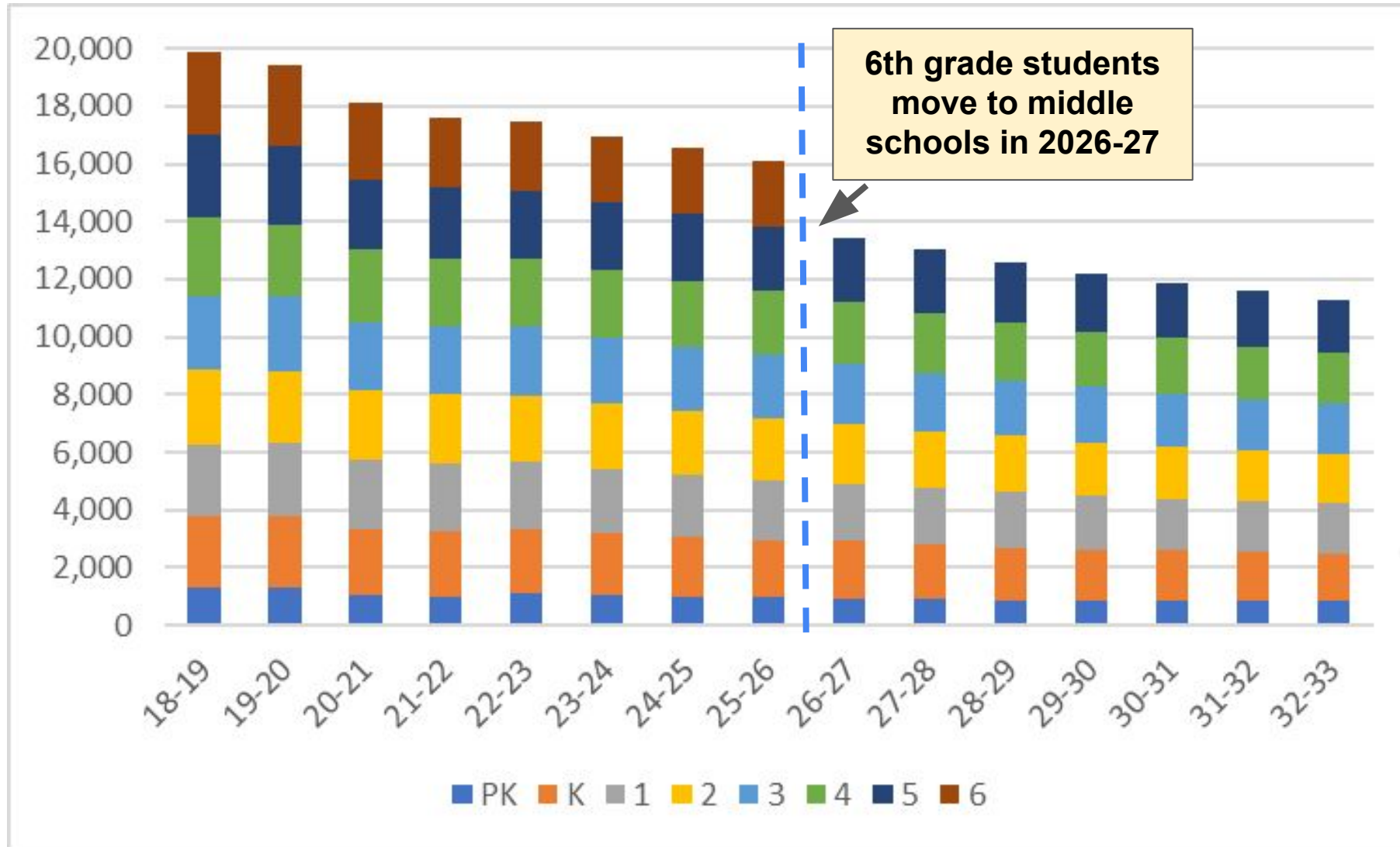


# Next Steps In The Process

- **Complete audit of elementary buildings**
- **Determine number of elementary schools needed**
  - Considering declining enrollments and shift of 6th grade to middle school
- **Provide recommendations to the Board of Education**
  - Buildings to renovate, rebuild, or retire
- **Evaluate criteria to address attendance boundaries**



# Elementary Enrollment Trend



# Typical Elementary Enrollment

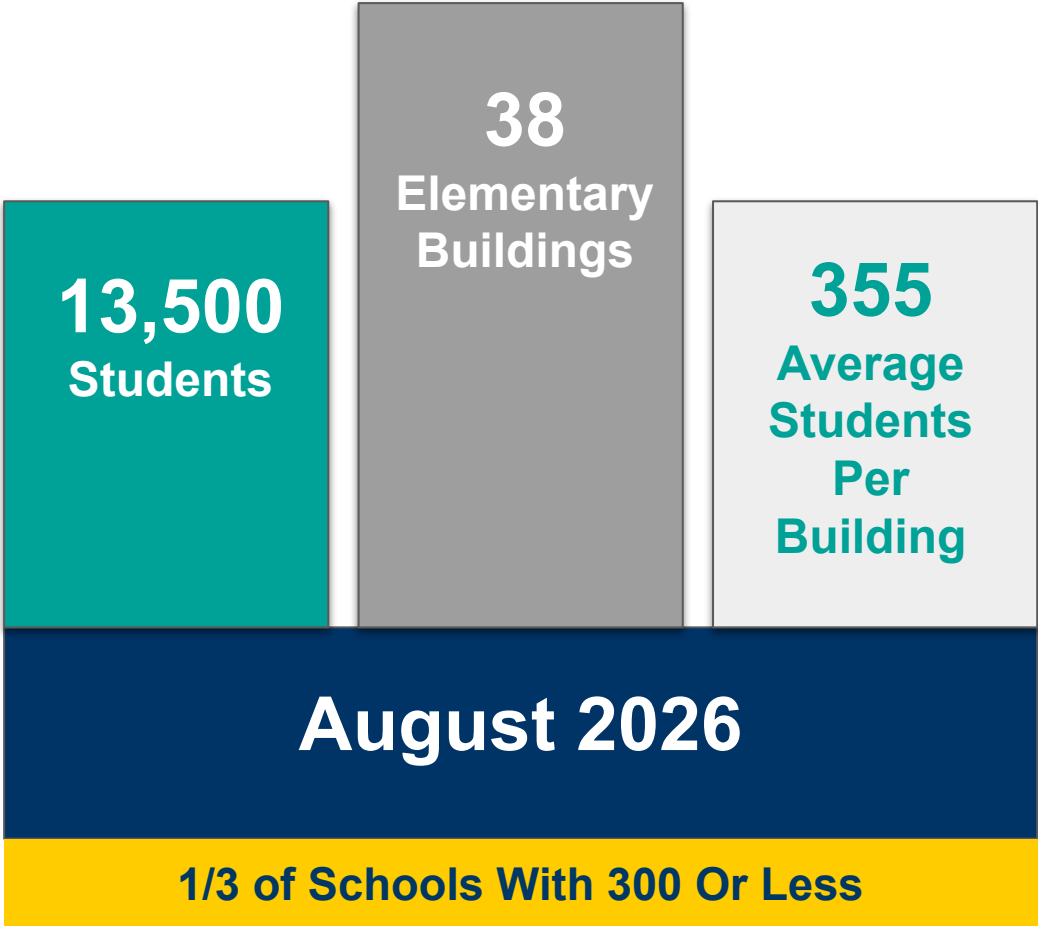
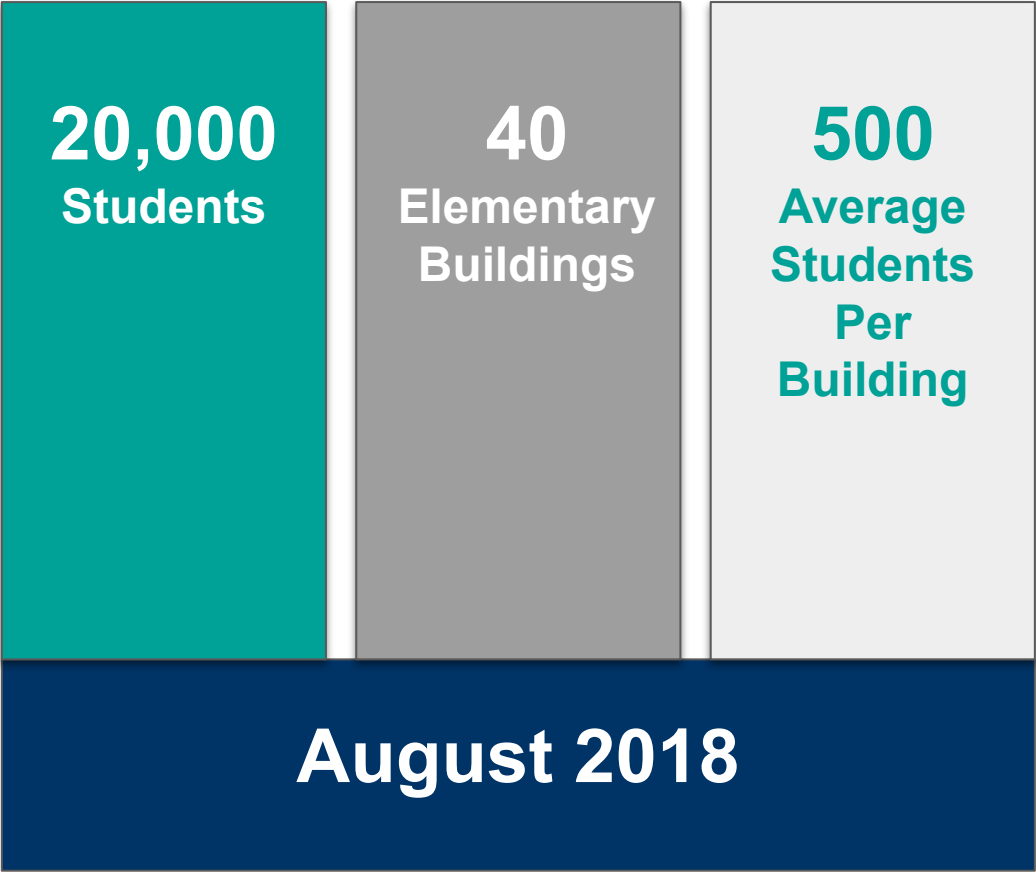


**Illinois Evidence Based Funding Formula  
450 Students**

**2026 Expected U-46 Enrollment  
1/3 of Schools With 300 Or Less Students**

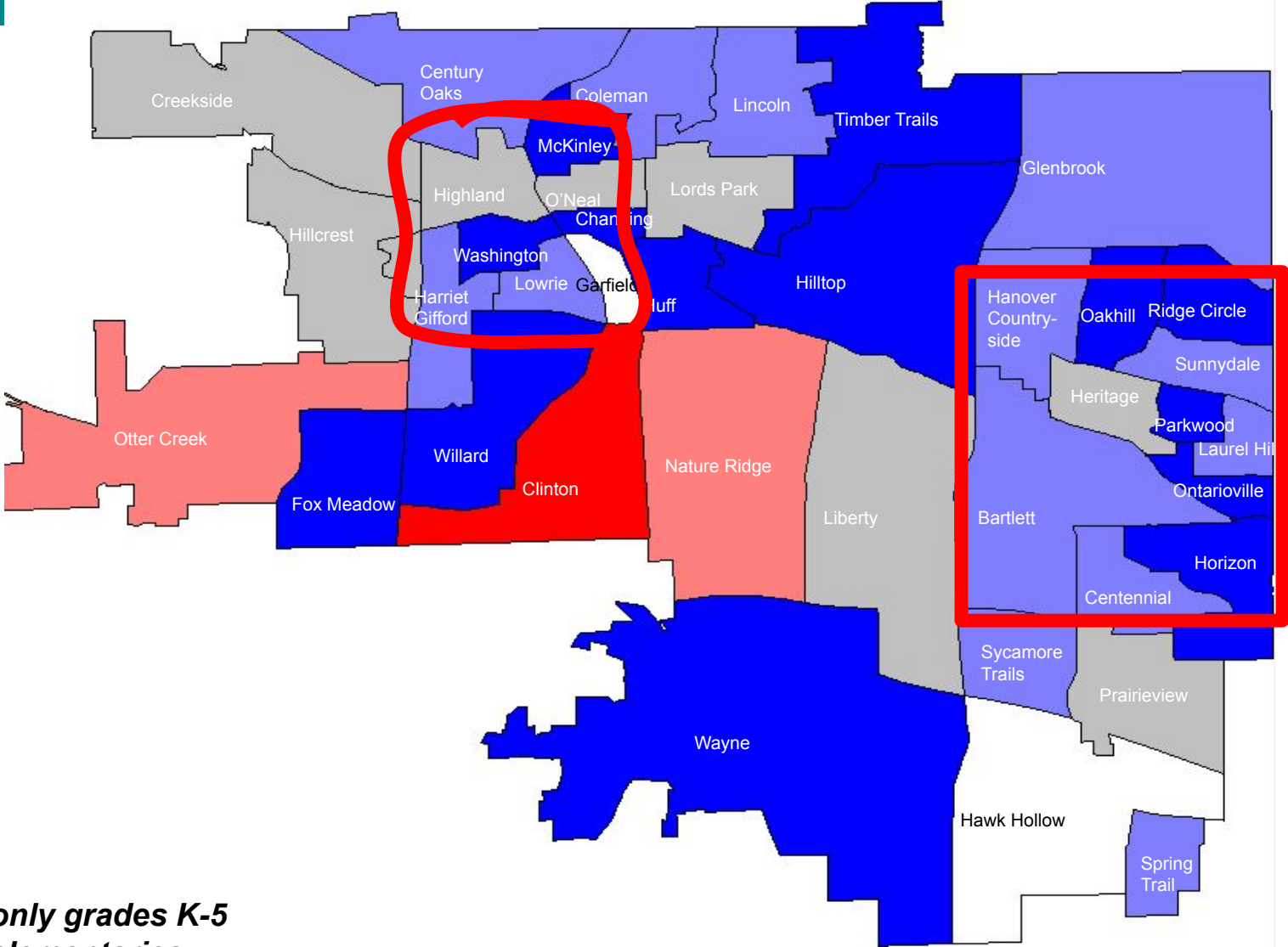


# Impact of Declining Enrollments in U-46



# Projected Capacity Utilization of Elementary Schools (2026-27)

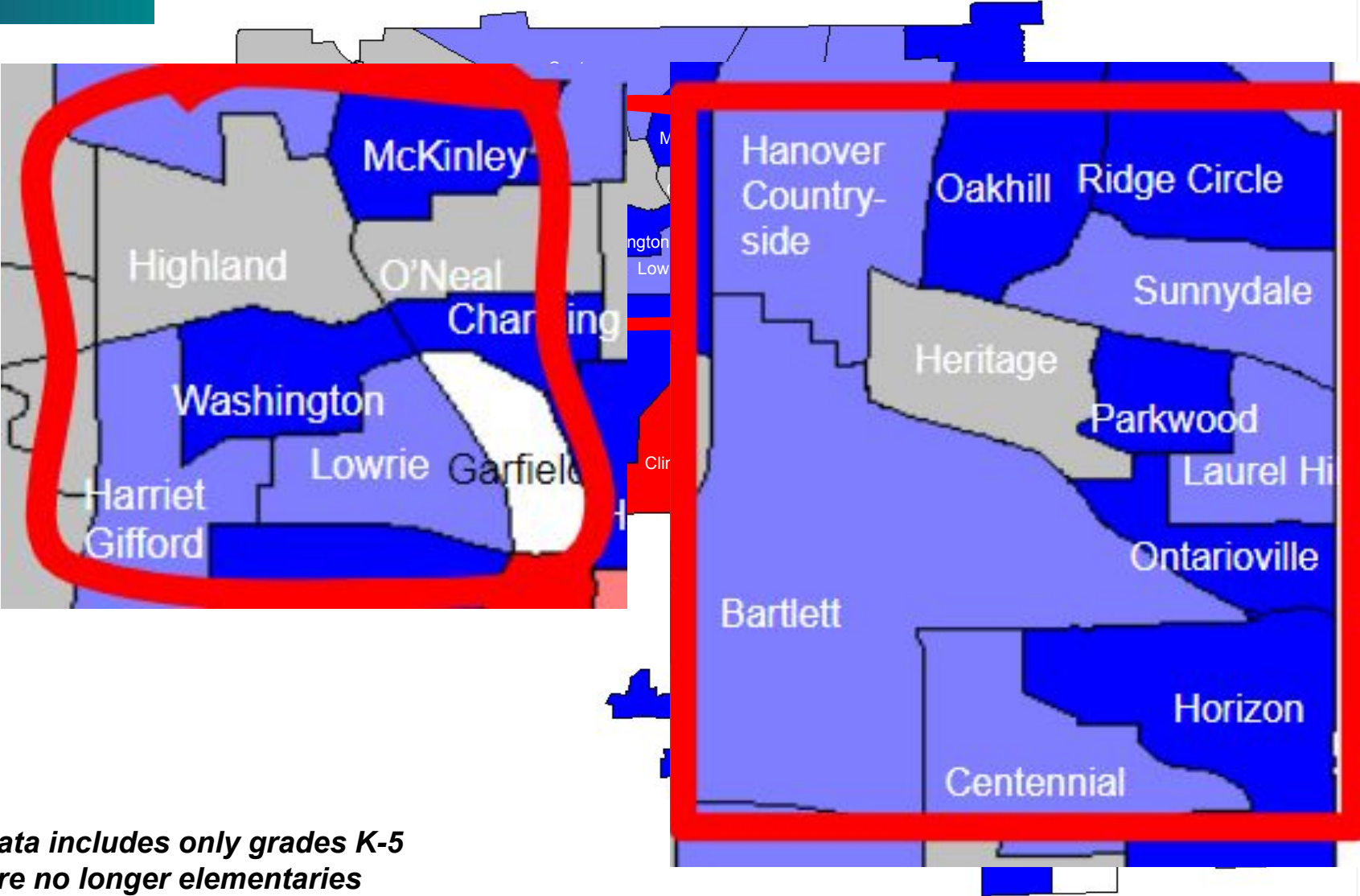
	Percent Capacity	Schools
<div></div>	51-62%	14
<div></div>	63-74%	13
<div></div>	75-86%	8
<div></div>	87-98%	2
<div></div>	99-113%	1



**Note:** Projected elementary enrollment data includes only grades K-5  
 White boundary areas are schools that are no longer elementaries

# Projected Capacity Utilization of Elementary Schools (2026-27)

	Percent Capacity	Schools
	51-62%	14
	63-74%	13
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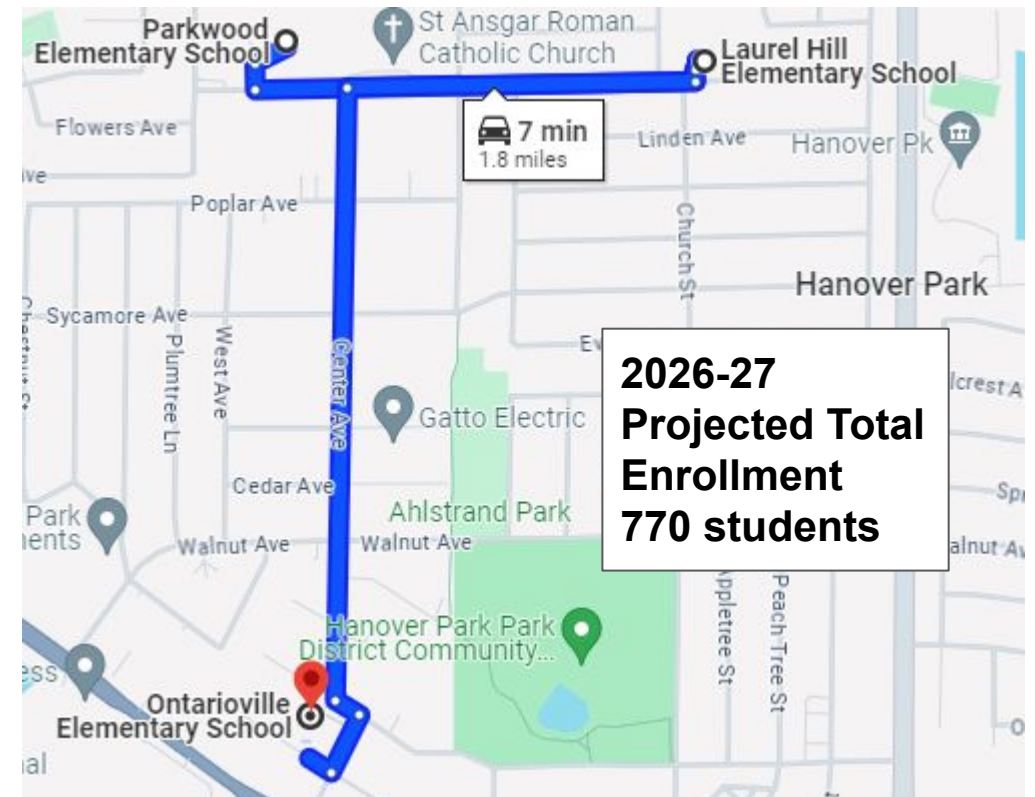
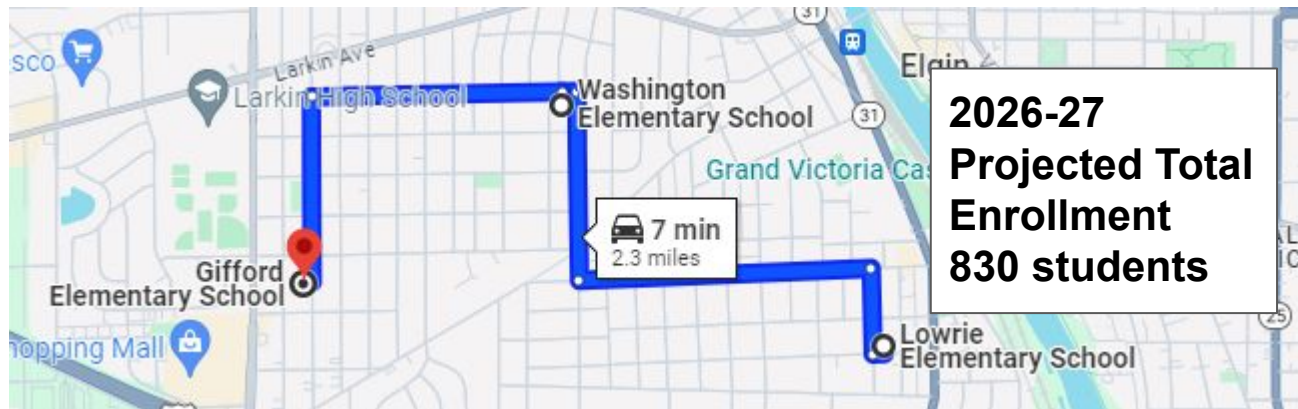


*Note: Projected elementary enrollment data includes only grades K-5  
White boundary areas are schools that are no longer elementaries*



# Determining The Number Of Elementary Schools Needed

- Focus on areas of the district with multiple schools in a tight geographic window running below capacity
  - Lowrie, Washington, Harriet Gifford
  - Parkwood, Laurel Hill, Ontarioville



# Moving Forward

- If U-46 does not close any additional elementary schools, we will have over 1/3 of our schools running below 300 students in 2026 due to declining enrollments and 6th grade moving to middle school



Illinois Evidence Based Funding Formula  
450 Students

2026 Expected U-46 Enrollment  
1/3 of Schools < 300

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46



## Recommendations



# McKinley Elementary

258 Lovell Street, Elgin

- Built 1887
- Only 2.4 acres of land
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee to be rebuilt
- Scored “C” by DLR Group
  - Accessibility concerns
- Current enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 353
- Recommendation: Rebuild, location TBD



# Century Oaks Elementary 1235 Braeburn Drive, Elgin



- Built 1970
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee to be rebuilt
- Scored “C-” by DLR Group
- Current enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 427
- Sits on ~8 acres, so may be possible to rebuild new school on site
- **Recommendation:**  
Retire, transition plan TBD

# Illinois Park Early Childhood Center 1350 Wing Street, Elgin



- Built in 1999
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee to eventually be closed
  - ▶ Only after adding PreK sections to many of our elementary schools
- Received a “B-” from DLR Group
- Drop-off and pick-up not ideal due to heavy traffic
- Sits on ~8 acres
- Recommendation: Retire as Early Childhood Center, conduct feasibility study



# Washington Elementary

819 W. Chicago Street, Elgin



- Built in 1893
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee for addition or renovation
- Scored “C” by DLR Group
- Enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 380
- Sits on only 2.4 acres, so addition options are limited
- **Recommendation: Retire**



# Lowrie Elementary

264 Oak Street, Elgin



- Built in 1887
- 1.95 acres
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee to be rebuilt
- Scored “C” by DLR Group
- Enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 333
- Recommendation: Retire



# Parkwood Elementary

2150 Laurel Avenue, Hanover Park



- Built 1971
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee to be rebuilt
  - ▶ Ineffective layout with connected rooms
- Lot size 7.4 acres
- Scored “B” by DLR Group
- Current enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 280
- Recommendation: No rebuild, monitor enrollment data for possible consolidation



# Glenbrook Elementary

315 Garden Circle, Streamwood



- Built 1971
- Identified by Unite U-46 Committee to be rebuilt
- Scored “C-” by DLR Group
- Enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 459
- Sits on ~6 acres, so may be possible to rebuild new school on site
  - ▶ Drainage concerns on property may be limiting
- **Recommendation:**  
**Rebuild, location TBD**

# Hanover Countryside Elementary

6 S. Bartlett Road, Streamwood



- Built 1954
- Lot size of 4.4 acres
- Recommended for closure by Unite U-46 Committee
- Scored "C-" by DLR Group
- Enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 370
- **Recommendation: Maintain as possible transition space, then retire**



# Highland Elementary

190 N. Melrose Ave, Elgin



- **Built 1959**
  - ▶ 3 additions, latest 2016
- **Lot size of 6.5 acres**
- **Almost 63,000 sq ft**
- **Scored “C” by DLR Group**
- **Enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 568**
- **Recommendation: Consider for updates/addition**



# Harriet Gifford Elementary

240 South Clifton Ave, Elgin



- **Built 1948**
  - ▶ 3 additions, latest 2002
- **Lot size of 3.6 acres**
- **Scored "C-" by DLR Group**
- **Enrollment in 23-24 (K-6): 386**
- **Recommendation: Consider for updates/addition**

# Capital Project Cost Summary

SCHOOL	PROJECT	EST. COST	EST. COMPLETION
<b>FUNDED BEFORE UNITE U-46 PLAN</b>			
Conversion of Elementary School to Middle School	Located at Hawk Hollow	\$58 Million	Summer 2025
<b>UNITE U-46 FUNDED PROJECTS (INCLUDES RESERVES) \$380 MILLION</b>			
New Middle School	Located in Elgin	\$110 Million	Summer 2026
Additions at two middle schools	Kimball and Kenyon Woods	\$85 Million	Summer 2026
New Elementary School	Located in Elgin to replace McKinley	\$60 Million	Summer 2027
New Elementary School	Located in Streamwood / Hanover Park	\$60 Million	Summer 2027
Conversion of Pre-K Center to Elementary School	Located at IL Park	\$10 Million	TBD
Additions at two elementary schools	Harriet Gifford and Highland	\$33 Million	TBD
<b>Total Referendum Project Cost Estimate</b>		<b>\$358 M plus projects TBD</b>	

# Additional Capital Project Considerations

SCHOOL	PROJECT	EST. COST	EST. COMPLETION
New Elementary School	Located in Elgin to replace Century Oaks	\$60 Million	TBD
Update Canton, Eastview, Larsen, Tefft Middle Schools	Secure front entrances, update STEM, science labs, add flexible/collaborative learning spaces	\$40 Million	TBD
Update Existing Elementary Schools	Safety, security, renovation, repair, technology, flexible spaces	\$84 Million	TBD
Total Additional Project Cost Estimate		\$184 M	



# Summary of Recommendations

## Pre-K and Elementary Sites will be impacted as follows:

- Lowrie, McKinley, and Washington will be retired in June 2027
- Century Oaks, Hanover Countryside and Glenbrook will be retired at a future date to be determined
- A new elementary school will be built in northeast Elgin
- A new elementary school will be built for the Streamwood/Hanover Park area
- Conduct feasibility study to convert Illinois Park to an elementary school
- Parkwood will be monitored for possible consolidation at a later date
- Additions and renovations will be considered for Harriet Gifford and Highland

**Elementary boundaries will be revised and communicated in the Fall of 2024**

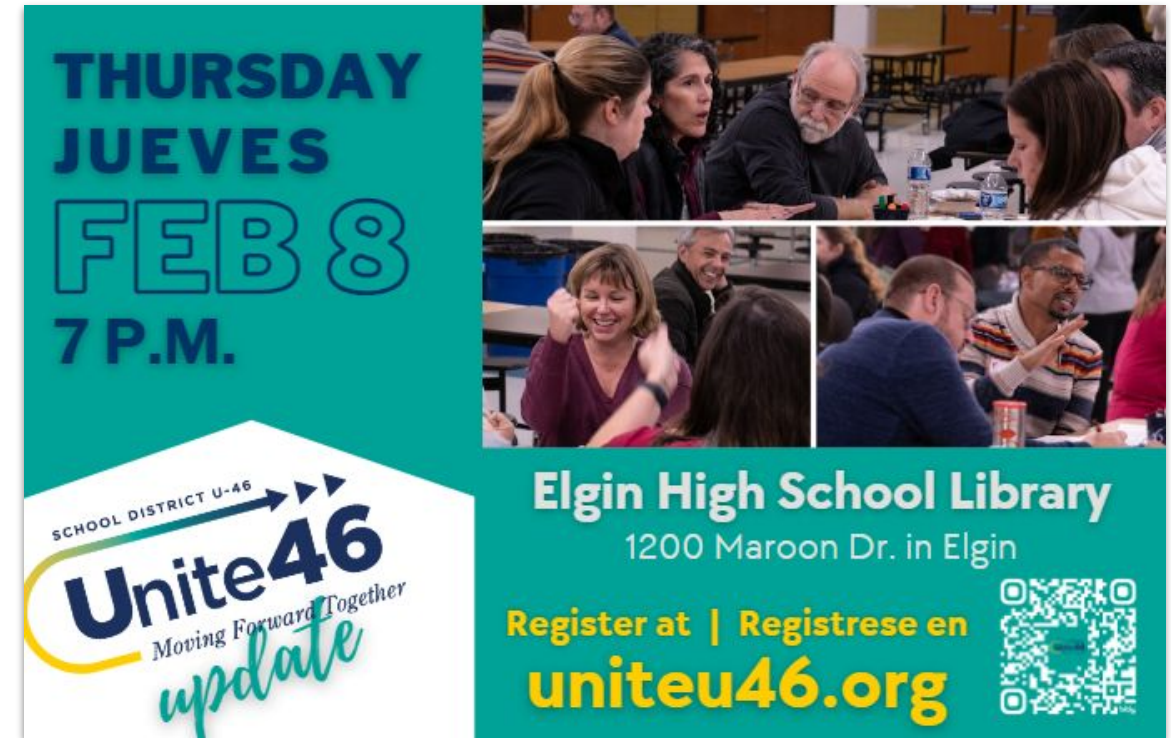
# Unite U-46 Schedule

## Future Sessions:

- February 8: 7 p.m. Elgin High School
- March 13: 7 p.m. Elgin High School
- April / May: TBD

## Topics to cover in 2023-24:

- Building audit and priorities
- Criteria to determine how many schools needed to serve our community
- Attendance boundary planning criteria and parameters
- Transitioning to new schools




**THURSDAY  
JUEVES  
FEB 8  
7 P.M.**

SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46  
**Unite46**  
*Moving Forward Together*  
*update*

**Elgin High School Library**  
1200 Maroon Dr. in Elgin

Register at | Regístrate en  
**uniteu46.org**



**Thank You!**

