

# Join the conversation

## Building 4J's future



***We're planning for the future.*** Our school buildings are aging. We need to update the plan that guides us in replacing and renovating outdated school buildings.

***This long-range facilities plan*** aims to position 4J for the future and revitalize our school buildings as great places for Eugene's children to learn.

***The condition of our school buildings*** has been evaluated by an independent consultant. The report showed which buildings are in the worst condition and made some recommendations about where to begin. The consultant's report is a starting point for conversation.

***No decisions have been made yet.*** The 4J School Board is talking with the community now about how and when to replace or renovate buildings that no longer serve our students well.

### **Let's talk.**

The 4J School Board wants to hear from the public about the next steps the district should take to improve and/or replace aging school buildings.

Parents, students, staff and community members are invited to share their perspectives on how to proceed.

### **Community forums**

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 7–8:30 p.m.**

Chávez Elementary School cafeteria  
1510 W. 14th Ave.

**Monday, Oct. 1, 7–8:30 p.m.**

North Eugene High School cafeteria  
200 Silver Lane

**Thursday, Oct. 4, 7–8:30 p.m.**

Cal Young Middle School cafeteria  
2555 Gilham Rd.

**Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7–8:30 p.m.**

Roosevelt Middle School cafeteria  
680 E. 24th Ave.

*Spanish interpretation will be provided.*

### **Online input form**

Posted at [www.4j.lane.edu](http://www.4j.lane.edu)

September 27–October 14.

Together we can plan for the future of our schools.

# Building 4J's future Building for educational excellence

## Why talk about replacing or renovating schools?

**It's time.** Most of 4J's schools are more than 50 years old. Some are approaching the end of their useful life. These older buildings are inefficient and costly to heat and cool. They require many repairs.

What's more, **our older school buildings were designed for an earlier era.** They don't support modern teaching and learning activities. They were not designed with safety and school security in mind. They don't easily integrate modern technology that is critical to a child's education today.

Why consider replacement or major renovations and not just repairs? Schools built for an earlier age can have some of their physical flaws repaired, but **their basic design will still be outdated.**



### Better for learning today.

**Schools today are designed differently** because teaching and learning are different.

**In generations past,** each teacher worked alone, instructing a small classroom of students arranged in neat rows. Schools were designed as long strings of classrooms set side by side.

**Today,** teachers often work together. They group students in different ways throughout the day to provide effective instruction. Students take part in more interactive and hands-on projects.

**Modern schools** have bigger classrooms to provide flexible learning spaces and accommodate today's larger class sizes. They provide spaces for special education. They feature common spaces that allow small group activities, create opportunities for teacher collaboration, and foster a sense of community.

### Safer.

**Modern schools are designed to be safer for students.** They allow staff to better monitor and control who enters and leaves the building. They are designed to eliminate nooks and crannies, where students are out of sight and can get into trouble.

### Cost effective.

**Energy savings:** Newer, more efficient school buildings save on utilities as well as maintenance and repairs. 4J has four newer schools. These schools are cheaper to operate even though they are used year-round and have cooling systems that older schools lack.

**Fewer buildings:** Consolidating multiple smaller schools into larger buildings also reduces building operating costs. Surplus properties can be sold or leased. We can then invest more of our dollars in instruction.

**Favorable construction costs:** The economic downturn has led to lower construction costs. In the past, local firms have bid on and won 4J construction contracts, creating local jobs.

**Modest tax impact:** As we pay off past bonds, we have the opportunity to structure new bond repayments to minimize any increase in tax rates. Interest rates are also low, reducing borrowing costs.

### Equitable and appealing schools.

**Every student** deserves to go to school in a building that maximizes their potential to learn. **Every family** deserves access to equitable and appealing school choices.

Replacing or renovating some of our aging schools would provide **strong, attractive school options** in each of the district's four school regions.