

ANGÉLICA INFANTE-GREEN
Commissioner



Providence Public School District
Office of the Superintendent
797 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903-4045
tel. 401.456.9211
fax 401.456.9252
www.providenceschools.org

DR. JAVIER MONTAÑEZ
Superintendent

September 2, 2022

Dear Providence Community:

It's no secret that students learn better and perform better when they're in a high-quality school building. They're more comfortable. It's easier to focus. And they feel valued.

A modern, safe building tells our students and educators – *you matter*. For far too long, Providence sent our students and educators into school buildings that were falling apart. As a former Providence Public Schools student, teacher, and principal, I remember exactly what that felt like and how it affected the learning environment.

But a new era of investment in our schools is underway in Providence. Our facilities are being rebuilt into spaces that our students and staff deserve, spaces that show them they matter. Enclosed you will find information on several projects that address decades of neglect, including media centers, swing spaces that allow students to thrive while their buildings are renovated, and full-scale new construction.

All of this work ties directly back to our community's Turnaround Action Plan for Providence Public Schools. The pillars of that plan – Excellence in Learning, World Class Talent, Engaged Communities, and Efficient District Systems - are all strengthened when we provide our students and staff first-rate facilities.

So I want to thank our partners in the City of Providence, and across our community for your much-needed support in making these projects possible. Schools across our district are starting new chapters with these much-needed renovations, and soon you're going to see a whole new story unfold in Providence.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Javier Montañez", with a large circular flourish at the end.

Dr. Javier Montañez,
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Infante", in a cursive style.

Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner of Education

COMING SOON...

The Curtain Rises

Since 1898, Hope High School has been a symbol of the city of Providence and its commitment to students' futures. Since our current building opened in 1936, our auditorium has gathered the community together and shown students, families and visitors how much we value education.

BY THE TIME THE JOHNS HOPKINS REPORT ON PROVIDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAME OUT IN 2019, THE AUDITORIUM HAD FALLEN ON HARD TIMES.

Chairs broken, lighting absent, paint peeling, plaster falling from the ceiling – and the entire backstage area unsafe for student use. When state leaders made a commitment to transform our schools, they made a commitment to transform our shared learning spaces.



This fall, the curtain goes up on a new, state-of-the-art Hope High School Auditorium.



Our new shared space will show our students, families and community that we are on the **road to excellence**. Thanks to the investment of the State of Rhode Island and the City of Providence, Hope High School will once more be **a symbol of possibility and promise**.

**GET A SNEAK
PREVIEW TODAY!**

Scan the QR codes below to visit our auditorium and see the new Hope emerging all around us...



RIDE Rhode Island
Department
of Education

Providence
Schools



It's Time to Tell a New Story

21ST CENTURY MEDIA CENTERS COMING TO PROVIDENCE SCHOOLS

LET'S TURN THE PAGE

- The average Providence elementary school is 75 years old, meaning it was built before the first satellite was launched into space and before the first personal computer was invented.
- Over recent years, school investments have been limited to projects to keep students "warm, safe and dry." That's just not good enough.

CENTRAL TO LEARNING

Media centers are the heart of our schools, providing access to reading, project-based learning, up-to-date information and media literacy skills.

- Studies show that students who have access to a high-quality school library program perform better on standardized reading tests.
- As the largest academic space in most schools, the media center is a hub for learning and one of the few spaces accessible to all students.
- Media centers allow teachers to collaborate and access instructional technology.
- The school media center is a public space where student groups and parent associations can meet for free.



INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

- Thanks to new state funding, **all Providence elementary schools are scheduled to have a 21st century media center in place by September 1, 2023.**
- That means \$9 million in new funding to support nearly **7,000 city students.**
- We will solicit input from students, teachers and families to make sure media centers meet community needs.

It's time to tell a new story in the Providence schools – and new media centers are an exciting next chapter.



RIDE

Rhode Island
Department
of Education

Providence
Schools



Email Brian.Lemay@ppsd.org for more information and with questions and suggestions for your local school.



Spaziano Elementary School

Demolish and Build New Providence, Rhode Island



Project Summary

The existing Spaziano Annex is scheduled to be demolished to make way for a new elementary school that will serve the district's needs. The new Spaziano Elementary School will be developed as a Pre-K-5, four-track school. Upon development of the bridging documents that will serve to procure a design/build contractor, the district will administer a fast-track design/build methodology to expedite the construction schedule. The new Spaziano Elementary School will provide shared community spaces, such as gymnasium, auditorium, media center and cafeteria. Key educational spaces such as Pre-K-K, STEAM and special educational facilities will be included.

Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner

Jorge Elorza, Mayor

Project Team

Dr. Javier Montañez, Superintendent

Downes Construction Company
Owner's Project Manager

Building Committee Members

Javier Montañez

Scott Barr

Joan Jackson

Christina Gibbons

Zack Scott

Brian Darrow

Sal Pellerano

Demo Roberts

John Igliozi

Larry Mancini

Melissa Hughes

Kinzel Thomas

Ramona Santos Torres

O&G Industries
Construction Manager

Tecton Architects
Architect

ABOUT THE PROJECT



\$44 million
Project Cost



90,000
Square Feet

August 2023
Completion Date

650
students

Grades Pre-K-5



\$40 million
Total State Support



9%
Housing Aid
Bonuses

91% Final
Reimbursement Rate

\$15 million
Pay-As-You-Go
Funding



Bonuses Realized & Valuable Outcomes

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Targeting net-zero energy emissions that will reduce operating costs and minimize environmental impact.

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

Extended Learning Commons:

- This facility is designed specifically to support a dual-language program, as well as project-based and differentiated learning.
- Extended learning commons create opportunities to bring education beyond the classroom, transforming circulation space into programmable educational space.
- Classrooms are arranged in pairs to provide opportunities for cross-collaboration.

Vertical Media Core:

- The Media Center incorporates STEAM to provide additional collaborative, hands-on learning opportunities.
- Small group spaces are distributed throughout the building to support breakout activities and differentiated learning.
- Access to multiple outdoor spaces and natural light speak to the benefit of design that incorporates natural elements (biophilic) on the learning environment.

NEWER & FEWER

- Part of a two-site strategy to turn the existing Spaziano Elementary School and Annex into a new Pre-K-5 school and a first-rate middle school (grades 6-8).

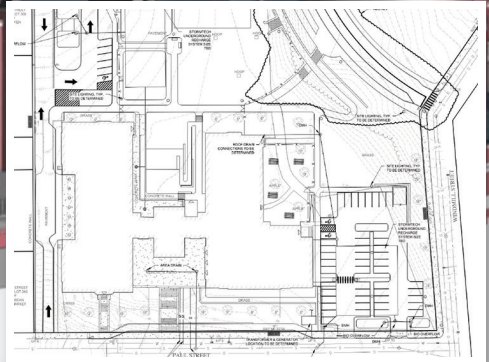
"As a product of Providence schools, it means the world to me to see our facilities being rebuilt into the centers for learning and growth our children deserve. These advancements, from refurbished buildings to new swing spaces and even a new dual-language school, are a major step forward in the Providence turnaround effort. I can't wait to open the doors of our new buildings to every student, family and educator in Providence!"

— Dr. Javier Montañez, Superintendent



Narducci Learning Center

Renovation and Addition Providence, Rhode Island



Project Summary

The project will be administered utilizing a fast-track design/build methodology. This will include, but not be limited to, the renovation of the existing Narducci Learning Center; associated sitework and traffic pattern modifications; and an addition that will provide ADA access throughout the building. Upon completion, Narducci Learning Center will provide the Providence Public School District with necessary swing space that will be vital to the execution of the many other school renovation projects in the city. The swing space will allow students to have a modern learning experience while their schools are under construction. When swing space needs are completed, Narducci Learning Center will be a permanent school.

Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner

Jorge Elorza, Mayor

Project Team

Dr. Javier Montañez, Superintendent

Downes Construction Company
Owner's Project Manager

Building Committee Members

Bacon Construction Company
Construction Manager

Javier Montañez

Scott Barr

Perkins Eastman
Architect

Joan Jackson

Christina Gibbons

Zack Scott

Brian Darrow

Sal Pellerano

Demo Roberts

John Igliozi

Larry Mancini

Melissa Hughes

Kinzel Thomas

Ramona Santos Torres

ABOUT THE PROJECT



\$ 30.5 million
Project Cost

 **110,000**
Square Feet

February 2023
Completion Date

760
students
Grades K–8



\$ 27.3 million
Total State Support



9%
Housing Aid
Bonuses

91% Final
Reimbursement Rate

\$ 20 million
Pay-As-You-Go
Funding



Bonuses Realized & Valuable Outcomes

ADA UPDATES

- Adding an elevator to provide unrestricted access to all levels

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Design includes STEAM classrooms, 21st century media centers and outdoor learning spaces.

INCREASED UTILIZATION

- Swing space is a space temporarily occupied by building users away from areas undergoing renovation. Swing space can be new space built before renovations or existing space that has already been renovated.
- In the current PPSD construction plan, swing space will be used for a number of projects. This coordination of construction projects means students and faculty from the school to be renovated move into the swing school temporarily, using it as a learning facility while their school receives the required renovations and transformation to a modern learning facility.
- Swing space offers benefits to completing major renovations instead of students continuing to attend school with construction going on around them.
- With swing space,
 - Learning is not disrupted by the noise and work of construction
 - Students are safer – no interaction with construction activities or concerns with demo and abatement activities
 - Construction activities will proceed faster in an unoccupied facility

“Our new Capital Plan will at long last make world-class facilities a reality for students across Providence. Timing these projects to coincide with other educational improvements in the Turnaround Action Plan, communities can gain confidence and feel proud that our students are finally receiving the resources they deserve.”

— Melissa Hughes, PPSD School Building Committee – Family Member Representative