

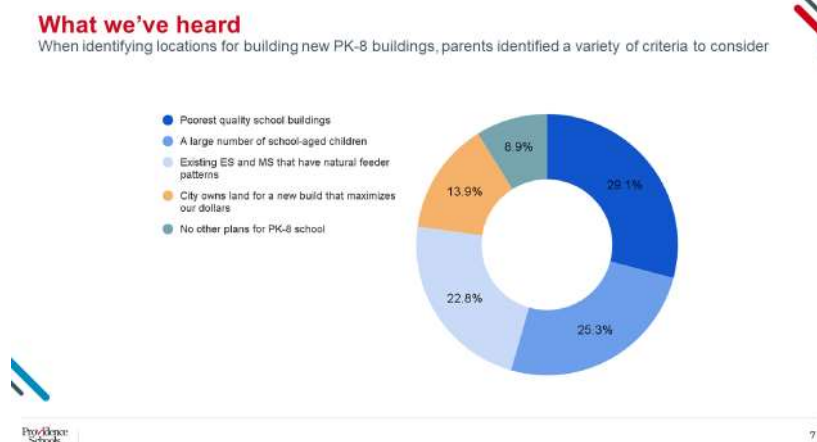
What is happening at Lima and Gilbert Stuart?

PPSD is in the midst of an exciting capital plan to have enough seats in new or like new schools for all PPSP students by 2030. As part of that larger plan, a new building serving students in grades pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 will be built on the site of the former Gilbert Stuart Middle School. The school will open in the fall of 2027, with the current Alfred Lima Elementary School relocating to the new building at that time and adding middle school grades in subsequent years. The school will continue to offer robust dual language programming as is currently offered at Alfred Lima. PPSP plans to use the space occupied by Alfred Lima as swing space for another PPSP school after Lima relocates to its new building.

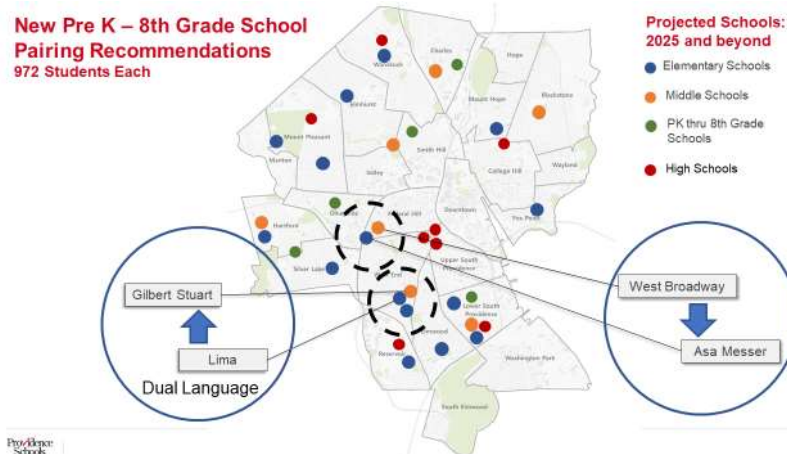
How was Lima/Stuart selected for a new pre-K 8 building?

Lima/Stuart was selected as the site for a PK-8 building based on community feedback and analysis of available building conditions and student enrollment. When we asked the Providence community during engagement sessions about how to prioritize PK-8 buildings in our third phase of the capital plan, we received the following information:

Community Feedback on PK-8 Builds - shared at July 26 Lima Community Meeting



Based on the feedback from the community, we identified two new PK-8 builds: Asa Messer/West Broadway and Lima/Stuart.



How and when was the decision made regarding the plan to to build new and demolish the old building at the site of Gilbert Stuart?

The recommendation for a new build on the site of Gilbert Stuart was made during the Stage II construction submission on September 15, 2023. It has been consistently communicated during engagement sessions with the community, families, faculty, and other public meetings such as the School Building Committee. Select slides from various meetings are below:

July 26, 2023 Community Meeting at Lima



October 10, 2024 Community Meeting at Lima

Lima School: Timeline & Design Decisions

- Construction to occur on site of Gilbert Stuart, estimated to take 2 school years
- Once construction complete, students would relocate from current school site to new site at Gilbert Stuart



- District and school academic team to work with school community on program design
- Design firm to work with school community and district on project scope and building design

Providence
Schools

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December 2024 School Board Meeting

Phase 3 Projects in Engagement & Design

Alfred Lima dual language PK-8 at site of Stuart, Messer/West Broadway to PK-8, and Mount Pleasant High partial rebuild

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT
Mount Pleasant Early College and Career Academy
Project Budget: \$110,000,000
Completion Date: Summer 2027
The Mount Pleasant Early College and Career Academy is preparing to be constructed with a project budget of \$110,000,000. Currently in the design phase, the architecture and engineering firm is designing a new campus that keeps the historic Mount Pleasant campus that also creating new state-of-the-art facilities that meet 9-12th grade students' needs.
MOUNT PLEASANT EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY:
Building a Future of Innovation, Learning, and Community

- Faculty engagement and school engagement through educational visioning sessions
- On track to break ground Summer 2025



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Why a new school?

It's important that every new school building, including renovations and new construction, meets the full needs of our students and provides a high-quality learning environment. That means more than just ensuring schools are "warm, safe, and dry." Schools should also support strong teaching and learning through modern facilities and well-designed learning spaces. At this location, we are replacing a nearly 100-year-old middle school with a new PK-8 school that will support a dual language program.

As required by RIDE (Rhode Island Department of Education), every school project must go through a formal process. During the "Stage II" phase, a detailed feasibility analysis was conducted to compare renovation vs. new construction. The analysis looked at several key factors:

- Space needs and layout for a PK-8 dual language program
- 20-year life cycle cost
- Structural condition of the existing building
- Compliance with building and fire codes
- Accessibility (ADA compliance)
- Internal circulation and separation of grade levels

- Broader school district needs

The results showed that the existing building could not support the required educational program or meet critical building and safety codes. That included important things like:

- Fire and egress codes for Pre-K students.
- Addition of new classrooms to meet Pre-K needs isn't practical due to the steep grade and layout of the site.
- Inadequate layout to support classrooms, support areas and common spaces.
- Poor circulation

Given these challenges, a new building is the best and most cost-effective way to deliver a safe, accessible, and future-ready school for our students.

What has been the district's engagement regarding the Lima/Stuart project?

PPSD has partnered with the City of Providence on engagement with the impacted school communities and neighborhoods. The focus of these meetings vary given the multiple audiences we engage with – teachers, students and families, general public and community members. While this list isn't exhaustive, here are some examples:

- We held meetings that were geared for the school and public community such as a meeting at 7/26/23 at Lima and 10/10/24 at Lima, which included attendance from various City entities. In all of these meetings, we've discussed this project as a new build. We advertise to our parents and faculty members through our internal messaging tool, ParentSquare, and also advertise on our website and social media. We also encourage our partners on the City Council and City to reach out to their constituents as well. [Here](#) is an example of that advertisement on Twitter.
- We have monthly School Building Committee meetings, which are open to the public and we provide updates on the many projects going on through Providence, including Lima/Stuart
- We have also discussed updates on our capital plan at our School Board. Again, not an exhaustive list of meetings, but some of our more recent presentations were in September 2024, December 2024, and June 2025. These are also public meetings open to the public.
- In addition, we also have hosted a number of meetings that are focused on engaging the students, families, and faculty members. These meetings have focused on getting feedback on the programmatic needs of the school and have ranged from open sessions to focus groups on specifics topics (e.g., special education, dual language)

What safeguards will be in place during demolition and construction to minimize disruption to the neighborhood?

The construction team, Ahlborg Construction limits access to site and no unauthorized personnel are allowed on site. A fence is installed around the perimeter of the site, with access gates to maintain a controlled construction zone.

During demolition, the contractor, Pasquazzi Brothers, Inc. will be applying water from hoses through a city connection to minimize dust. Additionally, the demolition will be phased to control noise, dust and removal of demolition material will be loaded onto trucks and disposed of per city, state, and federal regulations. Additional site watering will be done throughout the day for general dust control.

Can you describe the abatement process and any other impacts to construction?

The environmental consultant, Environmental Consulting & Management (ECM) and construction team, Ahlborg received approval from RI Department of Health (RIDOH) for hazardous material removal on May 15, 2025. The licensed remediation contractor, Pasquazzi will remove and dispose of any hazardous material in accordance with the approved RIDOH plan #238233. Further, the environmental consultant, ECM will review and verify safe removal and disposal of the material, therefore no hazardous material is left onsite prior to demolition. During the abatement removal process, Pasquazzi will construct containments per the RIDOH plan and access to the area will be restricted to personnel that are certified or licensed by RIDOH. The contained area will be monitored with air sampling by ECM to verify compliance with the approved RIDOH remediation plan#238233. The Air monitoring will be collected and sent to certified testing lab, the result will be analyzed by ECM to insure compliance with RIDOH plan. Containments will be removed once ECM notifies Ahlborg and Pasquazzi Brothers that all remediation is complete and air sample is in compliance with RIDOH plan.

The projected square footage of the building is smaller than the current building. Why is that?

The existing building was designed as a dedicated Jr. High School in the 1930's to accommodate the educational needs at that time and included inefficient common spaces. The Providence Public School has identified the need to create a PreK-8th, dual language 21st century school that cannot be accommodate in the current building. The proposed Pre-K – 8 dual language educational specifications program can be accomplished through a more efficient building, by leveraging multi-functional spaces, therefore enabling a higher functional capacity for students.

Where can I get more information on the Lima/Stuart and other projects?

More information can be found at our website [here](#).

Notes from prior School Building Committee meetings can be found on the Secretary of State's website [here](#).