

**South Burlington School District
Master Planning and Visioning Process
Frequently Asked Questions [Draft]**

Community Impact

How would consolidation affect neighborhoods? For example, what is the potential impact on community/parental engagement, property values, attractiveness of SB as a place to live, walking/biking options for kids, traffic, transportation of students, etc.?

What are the potential community social/health and wellbeing costs and benefits of the different configuration options?

How could consolidation benefit the community beyond the school system?

How does the district consider potential benefits from city initiatives to taxpayers as it evaluates school configuration options?

What is the impact of giving up the school properties in scenarios 3-5?

What are the potential environmental impacts of each scenario (e.g. impact on fossil fuel consumption, impact on natural areas)?

Student/Family Impact

The district has a policy on optimal class size. What research has been done regarding optimal school size and the impact of school size on students, and what are the results of that research?

Does the value of diversity in education (having 3 high-functioning elementary schools) outweigh the potential inequities of having children in separate schools?

How do teachers feel about each of the proposed scenarios?

What are the potential benefits and challenges for the student experience in each of the scenarios (i.e. social development, health and emotional wellbeing, safety, etc.)?

What are the potential benefits and challenges of aligning all the students in a single grade into the same building?

What, specifically, are the inequity issues amongst the elementary schools? Can they be solved by means other than consolidating the schools?

What environmental factors might impact the long-term viability of any of the schools?

What are the benefits and challenges of redistricting as a solution?

Why do we have to change the configuration of our schools to offer additional opportunities, like world languages, to our students?

5th Grade at the Middle School

What are the drivers of moving the 5th graders to the middle school in scenarios 3-5?

What are the benefits and challenges to the students of moving the 5th graders to the middle school?
What are the upsides and downsides of looping?

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Is there an additional cost of moving the 5th grade to the middle school?

High School First

I heard that the high school needs the most support. Why wouldn't we prioritize that over investments in new or reconfigured elementary schools?

What are the stewardship needs for the high school? What additional upgrades have been identified?

Do improvements at the high school have a bigger impact on long-term student outcomes than investments at the elementary schools?

South Burlington is increasingly reliant on tuition students. Would building a new high school or improving the high school attract and retain additional students? What would the risks of this strategy be?

Cost/Benefit Analysis

How much has been spent on consultants for the Master Planning and Visioning Process? How much more is projected to be spent?

Please share more information on the financials. For example, is land cost included in scenario 5? What happens to staffing numbers in each scenario? Why does stewardship cost go up between scenarios 1 and 2? What is "natural growth"? What is the projected debt load as a percentage of budget in each scenario?

It seems that 21st century learning is more about what goes on inside the classroom than about what the buildings look like. How can we do more with what we already have?

What is the impact of Act 46 on the process?

What assumptions were used in the financial analysis?

What would be the financial impact of repurposing the schools in scenarios 3-5 instead of selling them?

Process and Changes to Options

It seems like South Burlington is growing, yet the projections show a decline in student enrollment. How were the demographic projections developed? What happens in each of the scenarios if the projections are incorrect and the student population actually increases?

What is the timeline for making a decision? What would the timeline be for each scenario?

Why couldn't we build two pre-K through 4 schools in scenario 4?

Why couldn't we build a new K-5 in scenario 5?

Where would a new facility be built?

White and Burke are real estate investment advisors. Do they have any relationship with the City Center development or the potential UVM arena project?