

INFORMATION TO KNOW

2027-2028 School Redesign & Restructuring

TIMELINE

On April 27, 2026, the Board of Education approved a comprehensive school restructuring and boundary change plan. No school closures, boundary changes, or grade-level reconfigurations will take effect until the 2027-2028 school year. Nothing will change for next school year.

SCHOOL CLOSURES AND CONSOLIDATIONS

The approved plan includes the closure of specific school buildings to better align district resources and increase building utilization. Wright, Cedar River Academy, Cleveland, Grant, and Nixon will be closing at the end of the 2026-2027 school year. Viola Gibson Elementary will transition to an Intermediate School serving Grades 5 and 6, and Wilson Middle School will transition to an Elementary School serving Preschool through Grade 4. Truman Early Learning Center has also been identified for closure; the Board will schedule the closure after the listed elementary schools close and after full implementation of the preschool through Grade 4 grade configurations in each elementary school.

STAFFING & HUMAN RESOURCES

CRCSD is committed to a "people-first" approach, focusing on retaining our high-quality educators and support staff throughout this transition. The Human Resources Department is creating a staffing handbook for this transition, in collaboration with the Chiefs of Schools and Cedar Rapids Education Association, with input from administrators and teachers. This guide will outline specific details regarding school transfer processes, placement preferences, and support for staff at consolidating buildings. The district expects to share these specific staffing details with employees by July 1, 2026.

EARLY SCHOOL CHOICE PERMIT PROCESS (SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027)

To assist families impacted by future closures, the district is offering an Early School Choice Permit Process for the 2026-2027 school year. This allows students to transition to their future 2027-2028 school assignment one year ahead of schedule, provided the building has available capacity. The application window runs from April 28 through May 15, 2026. Applications are prioritized based on a weighted system, with the highest priority given to students whose current schools are slated for closure. Families should note that the district does not provide transportation for school choice permits; travel to and from school remains the family's responsibility. Families can use our [Address Lookup](#) to find out which school their student will attend in 2027-2028.

To apply for an Early School Choice Permit Process application, please complete the online form for EACH individual student. [Link To 2026-2027 Early School Choice Permit Application](#). All applications received will be reviewed based on the following weighted criteria.

Priority Level	Category	Description / Example
Level 1	School Closure	Students whose current school is closing and would like to move to their future 2027-28 school early
Level 2	Boundary Change	Students affected by the boundary changes who would like to remain at their current school
Level 3	District Staff	Students who have a parent/guardian employed at the requested school
Level 4	Sibling Preference	Students with siblings (who live in the same household) enrolled at the requested school
Level 5	General Interest	All other requests

Who Does NOT Need to Apply: You can skip this process if any of the following apply to your student:

- **Existing Permits:** If your student is already attending a school on a permit and that school is not scheduled for closure, their permit remains valid. No renewal is necessary.
- **Magnet Schools:** Students currently attending a Magnet school via the lottery system or were just accepted to enroll in the fall of 2026 do not need to apply for a permit to remain at their current school.
- **No Change Desired:** If you want your student to stay at their current school for the 2026-27 year and their boundaries are not changing, no action is required.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The district remains steadfast in its commitment to inclusive and specialized education for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The district will continue to offer Strategist I, Strategist II–Intellectual Disabilities (ID), and Strategist II–Behavior Disorders/Learning Disabilities (BD/LD) programming across all areas of the district. As the district transitions to a new building configuration, special education services will follow the student to ensure continuity of support. Planned facility updates at the new Intermediate and repurposed Elementary sites will prioritize accessibility, specialized learning environments, and the resources necessary to meet diverse student needs. The district is legally required and fully committed to ensuring that all services outlined in each student’s IEP are delivered as identified by the IEP team. Reconfiguration will not change how these decisions are made. The district will continue to ensure that all students with IEPs receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), in full compliance with state and federal law.

MAGNET SCHOOLS

The district remains committed to providing our families with educational choices and specialized learning. Specialized programming will remain a vital part of the CRCSD landscape. We will work with the Strategic Plan Executive Committee (SPEC) to determine guaranteed experiences for all our students going forward. Magnet schools will continue to operate as schools of choice with specialized programming. This work does not change the purpose or value of magnet programs. We will continue to support access to magnet schools while also ensuring overall enrollment balance across the district.

TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS

Transportation logistics are currently being analyzed using advanced routing optimization software to ensure neighborhood-based stops remain available for all eligible students. The district will continue to adhere to Iowa State Law regarding busing, which provides free transportation for K-8 students living two or more miles from their school and high school students living three or more miles from their school. Because this is a complex, time-consuming process, it will take some time to complete. The district plans to share the detailed route information with families well in advance of the 2027-2028 school year.

TRUMAN EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Truman Early Learning Center has also been identified for closure. The Board will schedule the closure date after all identified elementary schools have closed and full implementation of the preschool through Grade 4 grade configurations in each elementary school has been completed.

INTERMEDIATE MODEL PROGRAMMING

A key feature of the reconfiguration is the transition to an Intermediate Model at Roosevelt, Viola Gibson, and Franklin. This model is specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of 5th and 6th graders, acting as a bridge between elementary and middle school. This shift will allow the district to expand fine arts, electives, and intramural opportunities for 5th-grade students. District staff will utilize the upcoming 2026-2027 school year to continue designing and finalizing the unique programmatic elements of this model prior to its official launch.

WHAT CHANGES FOR STUDENTS

Transitioning to the Intermediate Model

Feature	Elementary	Intermediate	Middle School
Teachers	1 Main Teacher	Team of 2 Teachers	6-7 Teachers
Structure	Highly Guided	Guided Independence	Independent
Schedule	Fixed	Rotating, Specials, Flex Time, Fine Arts, Clubs	Full Schedule
Organization	Teacher Managed	Shared responsibility	Student Managed
Identity	Class Community	Team Identity	Personal Identity

CLASS SIZES

The district will continue to use its established staffing model and class-size caps to ensure that consolidation does not alter the learning environment or student-to-teacher ratios.

- Elementary (K): teacher-student ratio of 22 to 1, with classes capped at 25 students
- Elementary (1–2): teacher-student ratio of 24 to 1, with classes capped at 26 students
- Elementary (3–5): teacher-student ratio of 24 to 1, with classes capped at 28 students
- Intermediate (5-6): teacher-student ratio of 24 to 1, with classes capped at 28 students
- Middle School (7-8): teacher-student ratio of 23.5 to 1, with core classes capped at 30 students
- High School: teacher-student ratio of 22.75 to 1, with classes capped at 32 students

FUTURE OF CLOSED BUILDINGS

The district has initiated proactive conversations with the City of Cedar Rapids to determine the best future uses for buildings scheduled for closure. While final decisions have not yet been made, the goal is to evaluate thoughtful options, including repurposing and community partnerships, that serve the neighborhood's needs and align with the long-term vision for the Cedar Rapids community.