Richmond Community Schools Revisiting our "why"

Our initial "why"

- For long-range planning and considering declining student enrollment, the Richmond Community Schools (RCS) Board of Trustees and School Administration Leadership Team determined a need to study grade-level configurations and school building utilization. The district contracted with Administrator Assistance team members Tracy Caddell, Steve Edwards, and Wayne Stubbs to conduct the study, which began in mid-March and was completed in May 2024.

Findings Go Richmond!! Positives!!!

Strong Community Support

Neighborhood Schools

Proud Tradition

Staff Longevity

Art Museum

STEAM/Logos Programs

Community wants to Partner with you!

Kudos for trying to meet student needs

Why are we revisiting our "why?"

Transportation

Transitions

Standardized Testing

Community Concerns

Age Appropriate

Alignment

What do we recommend?
First, the results of this study are intended to provide a series of recommended actions for decisions to be considered by the RCS executive leadership team and the RCS Board of Trustees. The Key to all recommendations is time and communication with educational partners.

Four Initial Primary Questions

1. Determine the community's support for closing elementary schools

2. Determine the community's support for the establishment of 6, 7, and 8 middle schools

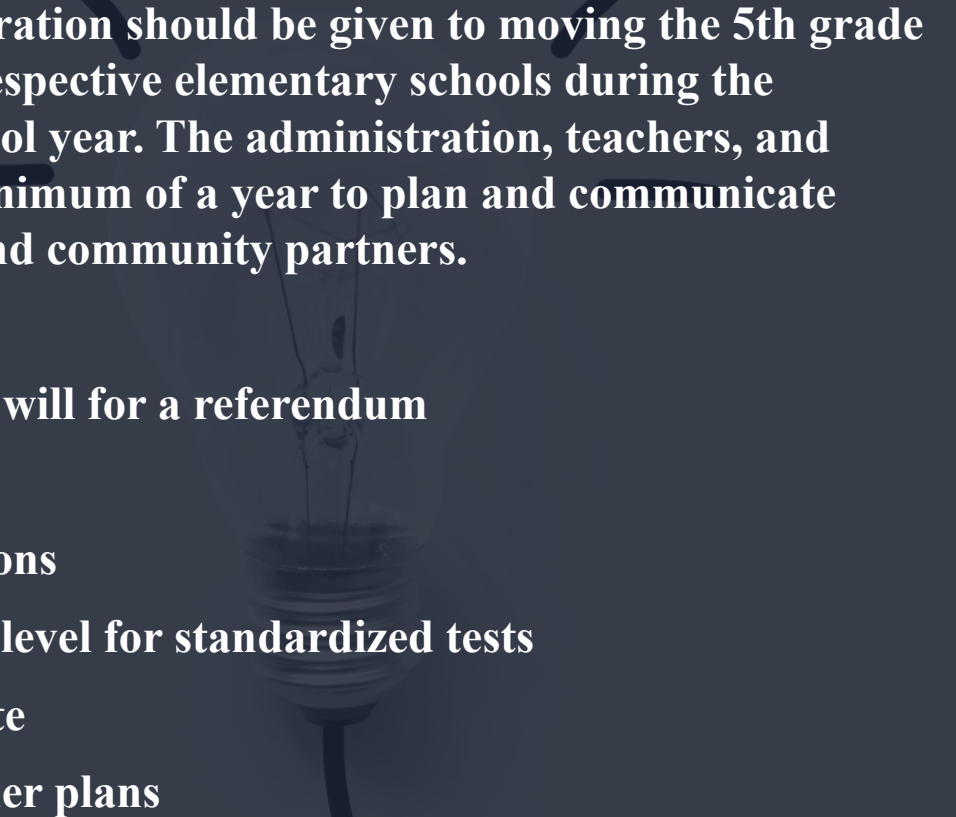3. Develop supporting rationale for the movement of Hibbard programs back to home schools

4. Determine the community's support for the establishment of an Early Learning Center

Recommendation #1
Drives all other recommendations

More info provided in study

- **Strong consideration should be given to moving the 5th grade back to their respective elementary schools during the 2025-2026 school year. The administration, teachers, and staff need a minimum of a year to plan and communicate with parents and community partners.**

- **Why?**

- **Little political will for a referendum**

- **Transportation**

- **Fewer Transitions**

- **Another grade level for standardized tests**

- **Age appropriate**

- **Aligns with other plans**

Recommendation #2

More info provided in study

- **To transition the 5th grade back to their respective elementary schools, Richmond is strongly suggested to return to a ½ day preschool program during the 2025-2026 school year. The administration, teachers, and staff need a minimum of a year to plan and communicate with parents and community partners.**

Why?

- **Space limitation when 5th grade is moved, and optimizes current facility use**
- **More children (potentially) as in increased capacity**
- **Cost savings**
- **Flexibility**

Recommendation #3

More info provided in study

- **Strong consideration should be given to reconfiguring Test Intermediate and Dennis into two middle schools during the 2025-2026 school year. The administration, teachers, and staff need a minimum of a year to plan and communicate with parents and community partners.**

- Why?

- Fewer transitions

- Improves Transportation

- Community Support

- Appropriate Age Grouping

- Increased Academic Rigor

- More opportunities for Electives and Extra Curricular

Recommendation #4

More info provided in study

- Strong consideration should be given to building a 600-student facility on the Hibbard site for STEAM, Logos, Applied Skills, and an early learning center. Construction will require the relocation of programs, so it is recommended that by the 2026-2027 school year, the CTE would move to Ivy Tech, STEAM would move to the high school, and LOGOS and Applied Skills would move to their home schools until construction is complete. The relocation during construction may also require temporary modular classrooms at elementary sites, but further study is needed at the time of the move after careful planning with the administration and Board of Trustees.

- Cost: See figures in study

- The building is not suitable long term

- The community supports these programs

Multiple Points for additional long-term Consideration

See study

See study for additional long- term considerations

Next STEPS: Strategic Plan

Questions