

THE NEED

Evaluation of the 2016 Comprehensive Facilities Assessment, along with the review of educational space needs, grade configurations, and building capacities, identified the following to be the most pressing needs at our district facilities.

- **Safety / Security:** The safety of our students and staff is a top priority, which is why **relocation of the main offices at each of the schools is needed to create more secure entrances for better control of visitor access.**
- **Staff Efficiency:** Many staff members are shared between all schools. This requires staff to **travel back and forth between the schools**, sometimes multiple times in one day. **This reduces the amount of time spent working with students** and increases travel reimbursement expenses.
- **Busing:** The current grade configuration requires all students to attend both the Melrose and Mindoro buildings. Consequently, **some students can spend more than an hour each way on the bus when traveling to and from school.**
- **Grade Configuration:** For families with more than one child in school, parents are required to **travel back and forth between two schools located on opposite ends of the District.** This creates daily challenges as well as during parent-teacher conferences, beginning of the school year open house, and other events.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** While the Melrose-Mindoro schools have been well-maintained, **many of the schools' major systems have exceeded their useful life, resulting in inefficiencies and ongoing costly repairs.** This includes air handling units, controls, and ventilators, roofs, windows, plumbing fixtures/systems, lighting, and electrical systems. In addition, the **schools require Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance upgrades as well as safety and security enhancements.**
- **Classroom / Space:** The District is serving a greater number of students with complex disabilities, **resulting in a need for additional space** for occupational and physical therapy, as well as small group instruction. **Currently, instruction is taking place in hallways and closets.** While there is available space to serve more students at the High School, moving a single grade level from the Junior High School is not an option due to teacher scheduling. The schools' classrooms also lack flexible space required to provide large and small group collaboration.