



School District of Jefferson

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JEFFERSON SUPERINTENDENT

TO: Daily Jefferson County Union  
COPY: School District of Jefferson Parents  
FROM: Charles Urness, Ph.D.  
SUBJECT: School District of Jefferson Launches Major Facilities Upgrades After Successful 2022 Capital Referendum  
DATE: June 19, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*School District of Jefferson Launches Major Facilities Upgrades After Successful 2022 Capital Referendum*

The School District of Jefferson kicked off a series of significant facility improvements and renovations across several schools in the district in early June 2024, thanks to the community's support of a capital referendum in November 2022. Capital referendums differ from operational referendums in that they are proposed and voted on to issue bonds allowing construction and renovations. The funding from the passed capital referendum may only be used for the specified projects, not as additional funds for any other District needs. Work will be in full swing all summer, and residents will finally start to see the results of years of hard work, planning, and preparation. You can learn more about these projects and the process on the District's Framing our Future Facilities website: [www.sdoj.org/district/framing-our-future-facilities.cfm](http://www.sdoj.org/district/framing-our-future-facilities.cfm)

The district is grateful to the Jefferson voters for their investment in our school facilities. The work underway will enhance safety and security, update aging infrastructure, and provide modern, equitable learning environments for years to come.

Key projects now underway include:

- Addition of secure entrance vestibules with visitor management systems at Sullivan Elementary and East Elementary to enhance building safety.
- Installation of a new 75-year LudoSlate roof, state-of-the-art four-pipe HVAC system for improved air quality and temperature control, and fully ADA-accessible restrooms at the 80-year-old East Elementary building.
- A 5,000-square-foot addition, expanding and enhancing technical education autos, woods, and metals spaces, and substantial renovations to upgrade the agriculture education learning spaces at Jefferson High School.

- Comprehensive asbestos abatement, installation of ADA-compliant restrooms, and a renovated library media center at the aging West Elementary School.

The scope of work was identified through a comprehensive 10-year facilities study conducted by Findorff. Prior to the successful referendum vote, a 24-member facility advisory committee consisting of community members recommended the study to the school board.

Most projects are slated for completion before students return for the 2024-25 school year this fall, though work at East Elementary will continue into 2025 with minimal disruptions. Crews should complete the high school work in mid-October, and minor temporary impacts around active construction areas are anticipated.

Our top priority is ensuring safe, modern, equitable, and sustainable learning environments for all district students. We thank the Jefferson community again for their support and partnership in investing in our children's future and are excited that the work that took a long time to design and plan is in process. The District plans to host open houses for community members to see the outcome of these projects this fall.

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