



Executive Summary: Anticipated Recommendation for Safety, Facility, and Learning Investments

Edina Public Schools

Edina Public Schools is proud of its strong schools, engaged community, and long-standing commitment to student safety, well-being, and academic excellence. Throughout the last several years, including during the 2025–26 school year, the district has worked closely with students, staff, families, and community members through task forces and engagement efforts focused on some of our most important priorities.

These efforts have been examined:

- Safety and security, which includes student and staff wellness
- Early learning
- Reimagining the high school experience
- Elementary talent development
- Spanish dual language programming
- The condition and suitability of district facilities and learning spaces

Across all of this work, a consistent conclusion has emerged: to meet current expectations and future needs, Edina Public Schools will require additional investment beyond existing resources.

Safety and Security: The Primary Driver

Safety and security has been the most prominent theme in community feedback and will be the most significant reason the district may seek additional financial support.

Families and staff expect schools to be not only welcoming and inclusive, but also well-prepared, well-coordinated, and resilient. Experts at the state and national level consistently emphasize that effective school safety is built on layered systems—combining people, training, and infrastructure—rather than isolated solutions.

Based on community input and expert guidance, areas where additional investment may be needed include:

- Additional, dedicated safety and security staff to support prevention, monitoring, and coordination
- Additional personnel dedicated to support student and staff well being
- Additional, ongoing training and preparedness, ensuring staff and systems work together effectively
- Updated districtwide safety and security technology infrastructure that connects all schools and district systems, allowing for coordinated communication and response
- Cameras and monitoring systems that support situational awareness and incident review
- Improved door access and building security, particularly in older facilities

Importantly, experts note that technology alone does not create safe schools. Investments must be paired with trained staff, clear protocols, and strong coordination with local public safety and emergency partners.

Facilities Matter for Safety, Learning, and Belonging

While safety is the primary driver of this work, the district's engagement efforts have also reinforced the importance of modern, well-designed learning environments.

Some Edina Public Schools facilities—many of which were built decades ago—were not designed to support today's instructional practices, student needs, or safety expectations. In several cases, aging infrastructure limits both physical security improvements and the district's ability to deliver specialized programming effectively.

Updating facilities across the district would support:

- Improved safety and security systems
- Innovative instructional approaches
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Efficient use of space to meet evolving student needs

Facility investments are not separate from safety—they are an essential part of creating schools that are secure, functional, and supportive of learning.

Meeting Growing and Specialized Needs

Community engagement has also highlighted the need for purpose-built spaces to support students who require specialized programming and services.

A dedicated learning center could provide:

- Space designed specifically for early learning programs

- Additional child-care opportunities before, during, and after the school day
- Innovative spaces for such things as talent development and dual language / immersion (Spanish/French)
- Collaborative services that currently operate across multiple sites or in spaces not designed for their purpose
- Increased space for youth and adult programming
- Increased enrollment stability for Edina residents

Creating a dedicated learning family center would allow the district to better serve students, improve coordination of services, and reduce pressure on existing school buildings—while ensuring that learning environments are safe, appropriate, and innovative.

Looking Ahead

As task force work concludes later this spring, I anticipate bringing forward a formal recommendation to the School Board regarding whether to seek additional financial support from voters. Any recommendation would be expected to focus primarily on safety and security, while also addressing facility improvements and a dedicated learning center to support student success and well-being.

If the Board chooses to move forward, a potential timeline could include a November ballot, allowing time for:

- Thoughtful Board deliberation
- Continued community engagement
- Transparency around priorities, scope, and impact

No decisions have been made at this time. This summary is intended to ensure early awareness and support informed discussion.

Our Commitment

Edina Public Schools remains committed to:

- Engaging the community openly and transparently
- Aligning investments with clearly identified needs and best practices
- Maintaining safe, welcoming, and high-quality learning environments
- Being responsible stewards of public resources

We are grateful for the partnership of our community and look forward to continuing this important conversation together.