

# CCS ELEVATE

## STARLING GRADE BAND STANDARDIZATION

In November 2023, thanks to the overwhelming support of Columbus voters, Columbus City Schools passed a \$100-million levy pledging to upgrade their facilities and reduce their footprint. The goal is to support the district's mission of providing a high-quality education for all students. Per Board Policy 7105, the Superintendent created a Community Facilities Task Force in early February 2024 to assess the realignment of district facilities. This task force consists of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experience.

The Task Force presented initial recommendations to the Board of Education on Tuesday, May 7. The recommendations focused on standardizing grade bands in buildings, increasing access to academic and extracurricular activities, providing equitable services to families and students, and honoring prior taxpayers' investments. The goal is to better understand the community's perspective on the initial recommendations and enhance collaboration through open dialogue. This will help align the facilities' master plan with the District's mission and enhance understanding of Columbus City Schools.

The Superintendent's Community Facilities Task Force recommends that the Board of Education merge the sixth through eighth grade students from Starling PreK-8 to **Westmoor and Hilltonia Middle School**.

**Starling PreK-8 (2013)** can serve 539 students; as of the 2023-2024 school year, 506 students are enrolled, with a current utilization rate of 96%.

Standardizing the grade band for Starling PreK-8 and welcoming middle school students (6-8) to Westmoor and Hilltonia middle schools will allow students to receive additional instructional time and attend a traditional middle school.

Westmoor and Hilltonia offer middle school students more extracurricular activities, such as music, speech and debate, performing, visual arts, and athletics.

Starling  
6-8 Graders

