



Office of Teaching and Learning

Summary of Proposed Changes to PPS Comprehensive High School Ed Specs

The Offices of Teaching and Learning and School Modernization are revising the Education Specifications (Ed Specs) for Comprehensive High Schools. This update incorporates lessons learned through the design and construction of modernized high schools to date including the Assessment of Community Engagement in Design Advisory Process completed by Marcia Latta in 2015. OTL and OSM staff also met with PAT leadership to understand the concerns of the teachers union as expressed in their Resolution on School Design and Utilization.

The revision to the Ed Specs for Comprehensive High School aims to do the following:

Stakeholder Engagement Plan: Teacher support to ensure collaboration

- Require a stakeholder engagement plan
- Identify stakeholders to be included in the design process:
 - Teachers; design advisory group; staff; service providers and community groups; central office departments
- Provide specific guidance to school administration on staff time needs for design process and move planning to best support teachers
- Set expectations for stakeholder meetings to ensure teacher voice is heard:
 - Design teams need to meaningfully engage with teachers and stakeholder groups

Program Development: Teacher support for school safety, climate and instruction

- Spell out how the program in modernized schools will be developed to best support students and teachers
- Make sure all academic and program supports needs are known up front
- Create a process for staff to analyze the master schedule and identify how schedule design can better accommodate concerns as related to program
- Provide flexibility in classroom utilization (as example):
 - Guidance on how adjust Ed Specs to meet each school's needs
 - Each school determines what works for them
- Ensure design process thoroughly explores:
 - Minimal switching between classrooms by teachers
 - Minimal use of more than two classrooms by teachers
 - Optimal student supervision at all times

Building Occupancy Planning: Teacher support for building transition

- Provide comprehensive guidance to administration and staff on how to support the move out of an old building into a modernized building