Our Schools – Future Ready

Phase 2: Scenario Guiding Principles

February 23, 2026

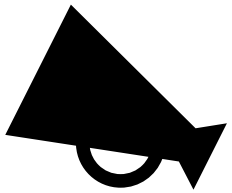
Overview of Community Themes

- Academics and Learning
- Electives and Enrichment
- Programs and Magnets
- Teachers and Staff
- School Culture and Climate
- Student Support and Care
- Community and Belonging
- Activities and Events
- Facilities and Operations
- Transportation Services
- Community Connections
- Financial Stewardship

Overview of Guiding Principles

- Strengthen, sustain, and expand high-quality learning opportunities
- Foster academic pathways that connect students to their interests and future goals
- Provide for the success of teachers and staff districtwide
- Support safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments
- Ensure strong, accessible student supports and services
- Foster community connection and belonging through schools
- Invest in facilities that support learning, school pride, and long-term needs
- Support reliable, efficient, and student-centered transportation
- Approach attendance boundaries and enrollment decisions with community and opportunity in mind
- Practice responsible, transparent fiscal management and stewardship
- Ensure clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and engagement throughout the planning process
- Protect the future of our public school system through thoughtful long-range planning

Guiding Principles--Scenarios



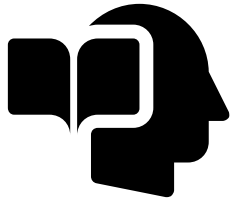
Guiding Principal: Ensure clear, consistent, and inclusive communication and engagement throughout the planning process.

- Provide outlets for open, ongoing engagement with students, families, staff, and community members
- Share information clearly, explain the purpose and status of planning efforts, and create meaningful opportunities for dialogue

Phase 2 Connection:

- Provide additional data on scenario outcomes and rationale
- Engage the community in planning for schools transitioning to K-8s
- Ensure the history of Williams is recognized as it becomes part of Lincoln K–8

Guiding Principles



Strengthen, sustain, and expand high-quality learning opportunities

- Ensure that all students have access to high-quality instruction and a diverse mix of academic opportunities
- Support a strong academic core while continuing to expand upon and protect electives and enrichment opportunities

Phase 2 : Connection

- Ensure **program continuity** at receiving schools when schools close
- Allow students in special programs to **continue participation without disruption**

Guiding Principles

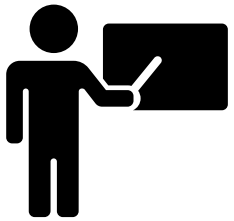
Foster academic pathways that connect students to their interests and future goals

- Create an environment that engages students, offering programs that speak to their career and technical interests
- Offer programs, opportunities, and coursework that help build hard skills to support their transition to postsecondary education, jobs, and/or continued learning

Phase 2 Connection:

- Ensure all existing **programs remain available**
- Evaluate opportunities to **expand magnet programs and electives**
- Establish pathways for students to **continue program participation** if impacted by rezoning

Guiding Principles



Provide for the success of teachers and staff districtwide

- Align efforts to focus on providing all district staff, instructional and non-instructional, with competitive pay and benefits
- Offer a strong network of professional support and advancement opportunities to help train and retain district staff

Phase 2 Connection:

- Support every school's success by **aligning programs with teacher expertise**
- Ensure rezoning decisions reflect **local school community needs and staffing capabilities**
- Align **staffing capacity and program diversity** districtwide

Guiding Principles

Support safe, welcoming, and supportive learning environments

- Continue to maintain and implement measures that keep students and faculty safe in their schools
- Bolster initiatives that foster positive school culture, student well-being, and consistent, accessible mentorship opportunities

Phase 2 Connection:

- Ensure K–8 schools are appropriately designed to **maintain clear grade-level groupings—elementary, intermediate, middle**
- Maintain **age-appropriate separation** between early elementary and older students in K–8 settings

Guiding Principles



Ensure strong, accessible student supports and services

- Expand student support, tutoring, and mentorship for all students regardless of ability
- Determine how programs, staffing, and services may be built upon to support accessible and expansive learning environments

Phase 2 Connection:

- Evaluate **afterschool and student support services** at individual schools and identify opportunities to expand them districtwide
- Ensure students who are rezoned can continue **accessing comparable afterschool and support programs** at their new schools

Guiding Principles



Foster community connection and belonging through schools

- Reinforce and support schools as pillars of their communities, for students, parents, and community members alike
- Strive to strengthen relationships among students, families, and neighborhoods while reinforcing pride in local schools

Phase 2 Connections

- Better **align feeder patterns** with existing neighborhood–school connections
- Reconsider **scenarios that place neighborhoods in different areas** for elementary, middle, and high school levels

Guiding Principles

Invest in facilities that support learning, school pride, and long-term needs

- Prioritize safe, modern, well-equipped, and well-maintained facilities
- Consider long-term facility investments that support program quality and positive student experiences

Phase 2 Connections:

- Plan for future **school needs in high-growth areas**
- Ensure meaningful **community engagement in proposed K–8** redevelopment projects

Guiding Principles



Support reliable, efficient, and student-centered transportation

- Explore methods that improve the reliability, efficiency, staffing, service, and accessibility of district-provided transportation options
- Ensure that transportation supports student success

Phase 2 Connection:

- Evaluate how rezoning scenarios affect the **transportation reliability, efficiency, access, and neighborhood walkability**
- Minimize placing **neighborhoods into different school zones**

Guiding Principles

Approach attendance boundaries and enrollment decisions with community and opportunity in mind

- Prioritize maintaining strong connections between schools and the communities they serve, while ensuring equitable access to programs
- Consider the impact of changes to student attendance boundaries on community identity, program access, and school utilization

Phase 2 Connection

- Review rezoning to minimize transportation impacts and **preserve existing school–community connections**
- **Engage directly with affected school communities** that are proposed for closure or conversion to K–8

Guiding Principles



Practice responsible, transparent fiscal management and stewardship

- Ensure resources are prioritized to align with district goals across facilities, programs, staffing, and transportation
- Support long-term sustainability and increased transparency

Phase 2 Connection

- Develop a **clear implementation strategy** to adopt and execute needed changes
- **Communicate** long-term program and facility improvement plans
- **Clearly explain updates** to existing plans and previously promised program or facility improvements

Guiding Principles



Protect the future of our public school system through thoughtful long-range planning

- Focus explicitly on long-term opportunities and concerns affecting public schools, including facilities, programs, staffing, transportation, enrollment trends, and fiscal sustainability
- Provide practical implementation strategies to continue strengthening the district over time

Phase 2 Connection

- **Fulfill the plan** through thoughtful engagement, committed follow-through, and established priorities
- **Phase implementation** in order to address immediate needs and create **long term plan** for future demands

Our Schools Future Ready
Alachua County Public Schools

Discussion