

For Immediate Release

January 21, 2025

## **FSD TO EXPAND PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

FREEPORT, IL -

At the meeting of the Freeport School District 145 Board of Education held this evening, the board approved the proposed Preschool Expansion Project. This project was initially presented to the board for consideration during their meeting on December 17, 2024.

The initiative will focus on expanding and enhancing our preschool program and unifying all preschool classes into one central location. This unified approach will ensure a consistent staffing model, along with the necessary resources and support services available in every classroom, allowing us to improve Kindergarten Readiness, which is a vital factor for student success in subsequent grades.

The rollout of the expansion will occur in four phases, with implementation scheduled for the start of the 2025-2026 academic year.

- Phase 1: Planning (Jan. 22 - Feb. 28)
- Phase 2: Implementation (Mar 01 - Apr 15)
- Phase 3: Transition (Apr 16 - Jun 02)
- Phase 4: Operational (Jun 03 - Aug 08)

### **The high-level changes of the project include:**

1. Preschool students and teachers/staff will move out of the elementary buildings and transition to the current site of Jones Farrar IB School in the Fall of 2025. That building will become the Early Childhood Center.
2. Elementary Schools will transition to a K-5 Model. This will give the current 4th graders in the elementary schools one more year to remain in their school.
3. The current K-6, Jones Farrar IB students and teachers will move to Carl Sandburg Middle School. JFIB will become a K-7 IB school in the Fall of 2025 and expand to a K-8 IB school in the Fall of 2026. JFIB will maintain its name due to its IB designation. The board and Regional Office of Education #8 will take action to phase out Carl Sandburg Middle School permanently.
4. Current 5th and 6th-grade students at Carl Sandburg will transition to Freeport Middle School (FMS) as future 6th and 7th-grade students. Current 5th and 6th grade students in Carl Sandburg will have the option to be part of the JFIB School in the Fall through a lottery application.
5. FMS will transition to a 6th-8th-Grade model.

We fully recognize the scope of work that must be completed between now and the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Each district department will be actively engaged in the work that falls within their specific areas of expertise. Our communication throughout this process will be timely and transparent to our staff, families and community. We thank our board members, our staff, students, families and the FSD 145 community for coming together as we continue to forge a path that reflects our district mission for all students.

Dr. Anna Alvarado,  
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