

# Lawrence Oliver School



## Why Embark on this Project?

The original Oliver School was constructed in 1917, and there is little evidence of significant renovations completed in its' 103-year lifetime. Its classrooms do not serve the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners. More importantly, the building, the engineering, and the safety systems are deteriorated beyond cost-effective repair, and will need full replacement. Some examples of additional problems that plague the school include:

- » The school size is too small to serve the growing student population of the North Central District
- » Lacks outdoor learning environments
- » Children must cross city streets to access play areas in the Campagnone Commons or O'Neill Playground
- » All engineering systems need frequent maintenance
- » Stairs and level changes throughout the building present accessibility issues
- » Students must go to the lowest floor to access toilet rooms

The UP Academy Oliver middle school resides within the North Common Educational Complex. It shares its cafeteria, media center, and gymnasium with many other users in the building and does not have purpose-built space for its science and dance programs.

## Next Generation Education for the 21st Century

The chosen design selected by the Oliver Elementary School Building Committee builds on the District's visionary educational program with a K-8 Educational Complex organizational structure. The two schools that make up the educational complex are the Oliver Partnership School (K-5) and the UP Academy Oliver School (6-8).

This is a school that students will be thrilled and motivated to come to every day for the next 50 years. Major improvements and characteristics include:

- » Safe and secure site and building
- » Educationally-appropriate sizes and adjacencies of classrooms, organized by grade levels
- » A balance of separated and shared building teaching and service spaces
- » Visible maker and science 'exploratory' spaces to support STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics)
- » All enrichment spaces (art, music, gymnasium) are within the building. No need for children to travel to the YMCA.
- » Dedicated spaces that facilitate small break-out sessions, as well as the SPED and programming for students on the autism spectrum
- » Outdoor learning and play spaces, rooftop and on site.

## A New Community Asset for Lawrence

The Educational K-8 Complex approach will reduce the number of student transitions as they advance through their K-12 educational experiences. The Oliver School, remaining in its current location will continue to serve the growing population of the North Central portion of the city. The multi-story proposal efficiently uses the small site while adding the classrooms, labs and community spaces required for contemporary and future educational needs. The building also includes numerous learning environments to serve English as Second Language Learners.

The cafeteria and kitchen feature full on-site food preparation. The multiple gyms can serve the larger community after school hours. The energy-efficient, all-electric building will be cost-effective to operate.

The community will be proud of the investments being made in the future generations of students in Lawrence.



Learn more at:

<https://www.lawrence.k12.ma.us/>

Click on *Community* followed by *Oliver School Building Project*