

6-12 Academy Update

Dr. Wendi Miller-Tomlinson, Deputy Superintendent, Teaching & Learning Division
Las Cruces Public Schools
Board of Education Regular Session
August 18, 2026

WHERE ALL LEARNERS THRIVE



New Opportunities for Student Success



WHERE ALL LEARNERS THRIVE



The Academy Design

The LCPS 6–12 Academy is designed to give students a continuous learning experience from sixth grade through graduation in a smaller learning environment.

The Academy will provide one learning community based on flexibility and student choice, with a goal of preparing every graduate for success in college, careers, entrepreneurship, and life.

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CREATING A SCHOOL THAT **FITS** THE STUDENT



What Makes the Academy Different?

The academy is more than a new school—it is a new way of learning.

Students will experience:



..... Rigorous academics



..... Hands-on, project-based learning



..... Career exploration
beginning in middle school



..... Partnerships with businesses,
colleges, and community organizations



..... Opportunities to discover interests
and prepare for life after high school



The goal is for every student to graduate with
strong academic knowledge, **technical skills**, **confidence**,
and **real-world experience**.



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FACILITIES

Investing in our facilities today to create innovative learning environments and expand opportunities for tomorrow.



Relocation of
MVLA to RGPI
campus



Summer 2026
for 2026-27



LCPS Career and
Technical Education
(CTE) Collective
Mercado



Construction
Underway



LCPS CTE
Building

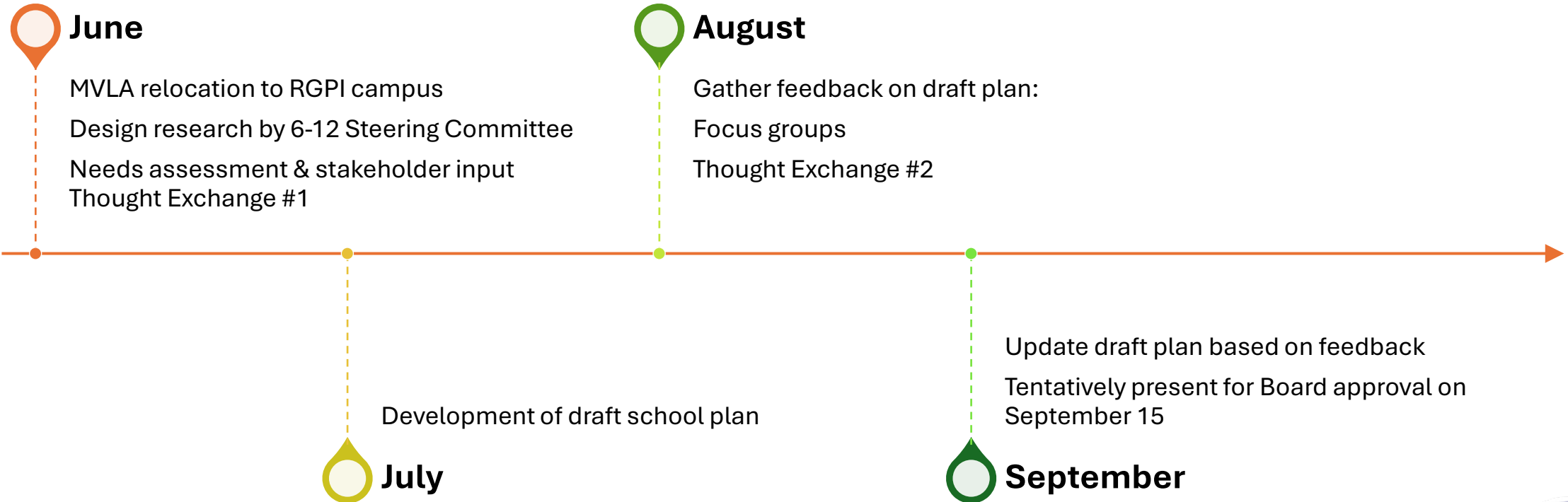


Groundbreaking
Fall 2026

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Timeline 2026-27 (Phase I-Design)



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RESEARCH AND PLANNING



School Identity

Defining our vision, mission, values, and the unique identity of the 6–12 Academy.



Instructional Model and Design

Designing engaging, rigorous, and relevant learning experiences that prepare students for life and career.



Student Supports

Ensuring every student has the academic, social, emotional, and personal supports they need to succeed.



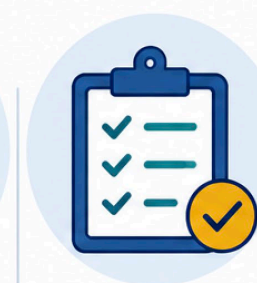
Leadership and Staffing

Building a strong leadership team and recruiting, developing, and supporting exceptional staff.



Operations

Creating efficient, safe, and effective operations and systems that support teaching, learning, and student success.



Implementation Planning

Developing a clear roadmap, timeline, and measurable milestones to bring our vision to life.

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STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK #1

(June 30–July 30)



QUESTION:

What should be the primary purpose of a 6–12 school? (such as strong academic preparation for college, career and technical education pathways, social-emotional development and belonging, flexible and personalized learning pathways, early exposure to college/career opportunities, safe and supportive environment, other)



Participants

854



Thoughts

447



Ratings

10k



Ratings ratio

21.5



Your feedback is shaping the **vision and purpose** of our **6–12 Academy** to best serve every student.

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WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Most Important Features of a Successful 6–12 School



592
RESPONSES

These results reflect what our community values most as we design the 6–12 Academy to best prepare every student for success.



%	RESPONDENTS	FEATURE (MULTIPLE SELECT)	
65%	(382)	Small learning communities or academies	
59%	(347)	Strong advisory/mentorship program	
31%	(183)	Cross-grade collaboration (older students mentoring younger students)	
57%	(340)	Clear academic expectations across grades	
47%	(279)	Extracurricular/Co-curricular activities	
28%	(163)	Athletics	
56%	(331)	Access to internships/work-based learning	
54%	(317)	Safe transitions between middle and high school years	
17%	(100)	Biliteracy	

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WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Survey Results: Outcomes Rated Most Important for This School

RANK		OUTCOME	AVERAGE RANKING	TOP CHOICE COUNT
1		Attaining graduate profile competencies (independent & critical thinking, problem solving, empathy, communication, honesty, self-awareness, confidence, productivity, responsibility)	2.61	 171
2		College readiness / focus on core academics	2.79	 157
3		Career readiness (Career and Technical Education / Work-based Learning)	2.91	 110
4		Student engagement and belonging	3.01	 132
5		Access to flexible learning options	3.66	 63



These results reflect what our community values most as we design the 6–12 Academy to best prepare every student for success.

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COMPONENTS OF THE DRAFT PLAN



SCHOOL IDENTITY

A college and career academy that prepares every student for success in college, careers, entrepreneurship, and life.



INSTRUCTIONAL MODEL AND DESIGN

Project-based, career-connected learning with flexible schedules, longer learning blocks, real-world experiences, and personalized pathways beginning in Grade 6.



STUDENT SUPPORTS

Integrated academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and postsecondary supports, including counseling, advising, graduation planning, and services for all learners.



LEADERSHIP AND STAFFING

A unified 6–12 school led by one principal with a shared vision and culture; a staff committed to building relationships and supporting student success from Grade 6 through graduation.



FACILITIES

Flexible learning spaces, a CTE Center, and a student-centered Mercado designed for real-world learning, innovation, and community partnerships.



IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

Gather community feedback, build partnerships, recruit staff and students, finalize schedules and supports, and communicate through presentations, open houses, tours, and shadow days.

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LAS CRUCES
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEXT STEPS

Moving Our 6–12 Academy Forward Together



Our shared goal: To design and implement a 6–12 Academy that prepares every student for **college, career, and life**.

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