

August 20, 2026

Dear Western High School Community:

We are writing to update you on an elevator modernization project taking place at the Northwestern Building, the swing space for Western High School.

During the start of the work for the elevator modernization project, the elevator pit walls were observed to have structural damage and must now be rebuilt as a part of the project. Based on the current assessment, the repair and modernization work is expected to take at least five months. As a result, the elevator will not be operational during the first semester of the school year. Once the project is complete, the elevator will be fully modernized and upgraded.

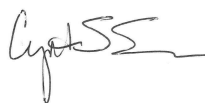
District officials are working with Principal Baugh and her team to develop individualized plans to support students, staff, and visitors who may be affected during the repair period.

We want to ensure that the Western High School community is aware of this change and understand that we are actively working to minimize the impact during the repair period. We will continue to provide updates as additional information becomes available.

For questions about the swing space or the Western High School renovation, please contact Alicia Thomas, Sr. Program Manager at AThomas03@bcps.k12.md.us, or TaMikka Sykes, Director of Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, at TCSykes@bcps.k12.md.us. If you need an accommodation related to the elevator project, please contact Quinnelle Gomez, Director, Fair Practices and Compliance, at QGomez@bcps.k12.md.us.

City Schools is committed to supporting an accessible and welcoming environment for all members of the Western High School community. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this unexpected setback.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Smith, P. E., PMP, ALEP
Executive Director, Capital Projects