

Cranston Public Schools

Building Cranston's Future One Child at a Time

and School

APPRENTICESHIP EXPLORATION SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Why is it important to renovate AES?

The building needs a comprehensive renovation to convert it to a 21st century learning space. The staff and students have been operating in a building originally designed for a jewelry business. According to Superintendent Jeannine Nota-Masse, "The Apprenticeship Exploration School is our third high school and is as important as our traditional high schools. The students we serve there are learning critical skills which will prepare them for careers, in addition to receiving a comprehensive high school education. It is imperative that we provide them with an appropriate learning environment. We are pleased that our voters overwhelmingly agreed with the need for these improvements."

How much of the approved bond was for the AES project?

The total bond was for \$40 million, 13.9M of which was allocated to the AES project. The bond was approved in June 2024. It included the purchase of the building which had been leased since 2002, and the necessary renovations to convert it to a 21st century learning space.

How many students attend AES?

Approximately 180 students attend this school, grades 9-12. The enrollment has stayed at this number to the limitations of the physical space. The school is authorized to grow to 245 students. The renovation is planned to accommodate an expanded enrollment.

When is the official start to the construction project?

The project kicked off its first phase of renovations on August 1, 2025.

When is each phase of renovation slated to begin and end?

The first three phases of construction should be completed by summer 2026. The final phase of construction is currently scheduled for fall 2027.

Where will the students go during the construction?

This is a phased and occupied construction project. The school recently took over the basement portion of the building, allowing for enough swing space to maintain classes while portions of the

building are under construction. As a construction school, AES students will engage with the construction project as it progresses.

Have the students or staff members been involved in directing the design of the teaching and learning spaces?

Yes, students and teachers were engaged multiple times throughout the design process and will continue to be engaged as we select finishes, fixtures and furniture for the new space.

Are the students involved in the construction portion of the project, given that the school houses a construction program?

Graduates of the school, under the direction of the Laborers' Union are involved in the construction as part of their training and will receive credit for their hours.

What kinds of renovations will be done?

Within the renovation, the layout will change, classroom spaces will be upgraded and expanded, the roof will be replaced and all electrical and mechanical systems will be upgraded.