



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON FEASIBILITY STUDY

Feasibility Study Overview

In December 2019, the City of Norfolk School Board passed a resolution to provide funding and guidance to shape the future of the historic Booker T. Washington High School. The School Board seeks “to ensure that Booker T. Washington High School has a vibrant and competitive Academy that will retain and attract a diverse group of students from across the city.”

To move forward on that direction from the School Board, Norfolk Public Schools hired HBA Architects to conduct a Feasibility Study. The goal of this study is to review the current instruction programs and the spaces that house them, consider the current and future goals of teaching and learning and the school’s curriculum, and define what spaces and structures are needed to support a modern, comprehensive high school and an innovative Academy of the Arts program. This study of programming and infrastructure will lead to “educational specifications” that responds to future educational changes, potential programmatic growth, and community partnerships, and will serve as a communication and benchmarking tool for all project stakeholders: students, parents, and families; faculty and administrators; civic leaders and community members; and potential project design and construction partners.

A comprehensive study of the school’s academic programs and how they align with the current physical structure has not been conducted since the opening of the existing structure in 1974. In 2018, the School Board voted to maintain the present location and name of Booker T. Washington High School. [School Board Phase I feasibility study resolution](#)

What is the Financial Commitment?

The division’s *current* financial commitment to BTWHS includes funding for roof replacement, window replacement, HVAC replacement, and electrical upgrades, thereby:

- furthering the mission of buildings that are worthy of our students as stated in the Drive for Five
- Ensuring warm/safe/cool/dry facilities for all students

The feasibility study will “define the need” – what space, equipment, furnishings, and technology renovations are needed to best support the Academy for the Arts at Booker T. Washington as well as a modern, comprehensive high school program.

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How will the Feasibility Study Work?

We will seek input from multiple stakeholders, talk to students, staff, alumni groups, community leaders, visioning committee. We want to connect with all who have interest in this project.

What we have done so far:

- Background Data Collection
- Study Team conducted Existing Space Utilization Documentation & Analysis
- Study Team has [facilitated Vision Planning Workshops](#) with 2 groups of BTWHS students
- Photos of students from day in the life/ excerpts from their visioning exercises
- Study Team observed a “day in the life” of typical BTWHS students and teachers
- Study Team as begun to interview BTWHS Staff

What is coming up:

- Exemplar School Tours – In person and virtual
- Focus Group Interviews with community organizations
- Focus Group Interviews with community, arts, business, and higher-education partners
- Community Engagement Web Portal
- Community Engagement Meetings
- Educational Specifications Planning Labs with Stakeholders
- Facility Improvements Feasibility Assessments, Recommendations, and Preliminary Project Budgets
- NPS School Board Briefings

Contact

Email us at edplanning@nps.k12.va.us with your questions or concerns or if you would like to schedule a project briefing with your organization.

Follow the project

Website: www.npsk12.com/educationalplanning

Twitter: [@BTWBookers](https://twitter.com/BTWBookers)