

Will construction delays impact the start of school?

No. Classes for the 2010-2011 school year will begin as scheduled on Monday, August 23.

Why was construction delayed?

A recent strike by the Chicago Laborers District Council and Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers resulted in a three-week work stoppage that impacted almost all construction jobs throughout the Chicagoland area. During this time, work on summer construction projects at Algonquin Middle School, Chippewa Middle School, Cumberland Elementary School, Forest Elementary School and Iroquois Community School was placed on hold, but recommenced on July 20. Work is now proceeding with intensity as we evaluate progress to date and prioritize work yet to be completed.

Will all District 62 buildings be open?

The District is working closely with its architect and construction management firm, Wight & Company, to develop and implement a construction timeline.

Our goal is to have work at District 62 buildings completed and secure the occupancy permits and approvals necessary for all students and staff to return to the buildings as scheduled on August 23. However, the 17-day construction delay will be challenging to overcome, particularly at Algonquin Middle School, which is undergoing the most extensive renovations.

Therefore, we are actively involved in contingency planning for Algonquin Middle School. This could include restricting access to certain portions of the building where construction is ongoing and utilizing other sections of the building where work has been completed. Of course, our top priority will be to ensure the safety and integrity of the academic environment for both students and staff, and we will take all necessary precautions in this regard.

What schools may need to find alternative sites?

The construction remaining to be completed at Algonquin Middle School may require the school to use an alternative site. Our goal is to have work at Algonquin completed and secure the necessary occupancy permits and approvals necessary for all students and staff to return to the building as scheduled on August 23. However, the 17-day construction delay will be challenging to overcome.

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ensure the safety and integrity of the academic environment for both students and staff, and we will take all necessary precautions in this regard.

Should an alternate site be required, construction on Algonquin Middle School will continue at an accelerated pace with the goal of returning students and staff to this facility at the earliest possible date when safety can be ensured. We will strive to minimize the number of students and staff impacted by this potential disruption.

What alternative sites are being considered for Algonquin Middle School?

We have cast a wide net and have been contacted by and explored a number of potential venues. However, we are seriously considering only those sites that can be adapted for a quality educational experience. Our criteria includes safety, appropriateness and ability to be adapted to support teaching and learning, and proximity to Algonquin Middle School.

For example, one option might be the Des Plaines Park District's Prairie Lakes Complex, which is located very close to Algonquin Middle School. This site could be available for District 62's instructional use during a two-week period between programming.

Will other schools besides Algonquin Middle School be affected by the construction delays?

Delays due to the recent strike will likely result in some inconvenience, as work will continue in Algonquin, Chippewa, Cumberland and Forest Schools through the start of the school year.

The District's architect and construction management firm, Wight & Company, will provide an updated timeline for the completion of the work at Algonquin, Chippewa, Cumberland and Forest Schools next week.

Currently, we are involved in contingency planning to identify and secure potential alternative learning sites for some or all Algonquin Middle School students should the building not be approved for instructional use by August 23. We do not anticipate the need for alternative learning sites for Chippewa, Cumberland or Forest Schools.

It is our goal to ensure that all District 62 schools remain conducive to teaching and learning during this process. Therefore, we are currently working to prioritize projects to be completed in order to minimize disruption for students and staff. Our top priority will be to ensure the safety and integrity of the academic environment for both students and staff, and we will take all necessary precautions in this regard.

When will construction be completed?

The District is currently working closely with its architect and construction management firm, Wight & Company, to develop and implement a construction timeline. We anticipate that construction crews will soon begin working seven days a week with multiple shifts to expedite the completion of the remaining construction work at District 62 schools.

The District 62 Board of Education and Administration are committed to ongoing direct, proactive, timely and consistent communications with families, staff and the community as we work to resolve this issue. As we further refine our plans, updates will be posted on the District 62 website at www.d62.org and on Twitter at @D62Supt. We anticipate that another parent communication on this document will be delivered via email and posted online later next week.

How will construction affect instruction?

District 62 is committed to ensuring that all students receive the high-quality education families have come to expect from our schools. We are currently making plans to collaborate with faculty and staff members to ensure that we maintain the integrity of the District's learning standards throughout this process. Field trips and guest speakers may be incorporated as appropriate, but full instructional activity will continue as planned.

What is the best place to find up-to-date information on this issue?

Updates will be sent to District 62 families via email, as well as posted on the District 62 website at www.d62.org and on Twitter at @D62Supt.