



Board of Education

TO: Board of Education
FROM: Sarah Norton, Director of Partnerships, and
Julie Odom, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities
DATE: 4/23/2026
RE: Horizontal Climbing Wall Installation

This memo is:

- Information only.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: May 7, 2026

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- in previous Board packet(s) dated:
- or attached to this memo

Basic information:

We would like to purchase and install a horizontal climbing wall in the Auxiliary Gym at Leman Middle School. This project will be funded by Full Service Community School Grant..

The company that will complete this project is Everlast, for \$41,355. This price includes materials, delivery, installation, and meets all fire and school codes. See the full quote [attached here](#).

A climbing wall would be a valuable addition to our middle school because it combines fun, engagement, and meaningful physical development. It offers students an exciting option for both PE classes and extracurricular clubs, helping motivate those who may not connect with traditional sports. Beyond enjoyment, climbing is especially effective at building upper-body strength, an area where our FitnessGram data shows our students currently perform the lowest. By incorporating a climbing wall, we can directly address this weakness while promoting confidence, perseverance, and overall fitness in an inclusive and engaging way.

The proposed wall will be 60 feet long by 10 feet high and designed in a traverse style, meaning students climb horizontally across the wall rather than vertically. This design ensures students are never more than a few feet off the ground, with no need for ropes or harnesses. Safety mats will be placed below during use, and when the wall is not in use, the mats will be secured upright, locking into place to both protect the wall and prevent unauthorized access. This combines 3D rock-like features with innovative learning opportunities. The textured, rock-like surface enhances the climbing experience. The red line relief reminds climbers to stay within the safety zone in order to not climb too high.

The insurance provider requires that appropriate 2-inch safety mats be in place beneath students during climbing activities, and that the climbing wall be equipped with a locking mechanism when it

is closed or not in use. Additionally, fire code regulations mandate a specific fire-retardant panel upgrade, which is included in this quote. The proposal also includes a 2-inch Ultra Cordless Mat Locking System to ensure safety and compliance. All Everlast products are backed by product liability insurance and carry a two-year warranty. In addition, all trained, professional installers undergo background checks and are covered by workers' compensation insurance.

Everlast includes an activity curriculum and a 2-year additional warranty.

Two other companies provided quotes for this project:

- Experiential Systems - \$19,712
 - Included 2" mats, 60x8-foot transverse wall (we would like 10 feet), installation
 - Did not meet all insurance requirements, installation deadline for the grant, and did not provide the highest quality materials
- Fourth Cliff Adventure INC - \$18,900
 - Included 2" mats, 60x10 foot transverse wall (plywood base with paint)
 - Did not meet all insurance requirements, did not include installation, did not provide the highest quality materials, and did not have high customer ratings

Background or historical information:

When developing the budget for the Full Service Community School Grant, we conducted a needs and asset assessment by surveying students, staff, and family members. One need that came up in this process was upgrades to our physical spaces to create more engaging learning experiences for students. Due to the grant's budget period, construction and installation must be completed prior to June 30th, 2026.

Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:

Recommendation:

The board approves the plan to purchase and install the horizontal climbing wall in the Auxiliary Gym at Lemay Middle School, as outlined in the Everlast quote.

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?: