



PROPOSAL

TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR DONATION OF THE
FORMER LINCOLN SCHOOL HEAD START BUILDING

PROPERTY REQUESTED

Former Head Start / Pre-School Building
327 College Street
Tiptonville, Tennessee

SUBMITTED BY:
LINCOLN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
TIPTONVILLE, TENNESSEE

AUGUST 4, 2026



LINCOLN ALUMNI

- ASSOCIATION -

Honoring Our Past. Building Our Future. Serving Our Community.

P.O. Box 152, Tiptonville, TN 38079 | 731-445-6747 | lincolnalumniassoc@gmail.com
labor-choice-r-1773120524.emergent.host/lincoln-alumni | Facebook: facebook.com/share/1EKsFP3jvd

THE HISTORY OF LINCOLN SCHOOL

TIPTONVILLE • LAKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Lincoln School was much more than a school. For nearly two decades it was the center of education, culture, leadership, athletics, and community life for African Americans in Lake County, producing teachers, veterans, ministers, business owners, and civic leaders.

BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY

Before Lincoln High School existed, Black children in Tiptonville attended the Tiptonville Colored School, which stood on land purchased by members of the local African American community. When public funding for Black schools was scarce, local families invested their own money and resources to educate their children.

In the late 1940s, the Black citizens who owned that school property agreed to donate the land to Lake County if the county would build a high school. That agreement became reality in 1949, when local businessman W. C. Haynes Jr. donated lumber and Lincoln High School was built at College and McBride Streets in the Baptistville community.

FROM NINTH GRADE TO A FULL CAMPUS

The ninth grade was added first, then one grade each year. By 1953 Lincoln was a complete Grades 1-12 school with a modern brick classroom building, cafeteria, gymnasium, and athletic facilities - for many Black families, one of the finest educational facilities they had ever experienced.

1949

Built on land donated by Black citizens

1953

Full Grades 1-12 campus completed

1967

Desegregation; becomes elementary school

1969

Lincoln School closes permanently

DESEGREGATION AND CLOSING

Following federal desegregation orders, Lake County High School opened in 1963 and Lincoln students began transferring in 1966-1967. In 1967 Lincoln became an elementary school, and in 1969 it closed permanently under Principal James Henry Fenner. The original wooden building was later burned, and the gymnasium was demolished despite community efforts to preserve it.

WHAT REMAINS TODAY

The former high school building became the Lake County Board of Education offices, and the cafeteria later served as a Senior Citizens Center and Head Start Center. Today the surviving brick building at 327 College Street is one of the last physical reminders of Lincoln School's legacy - the very building this proposal seeks to preserve for the community that built it.



LINCOLN ALUMNI

- ASSOCIATION -

Honoring Our Past. Building Our Future. Serving Our Community.

P.O. Box 152, Tiptonville, TN 38079 | 731-445-6747 | lincolnalumniassoc@gmail.com
labor-choice-r-1773120524.emergent.host/lincoln-alumni | Facebook: facebook.com/share/1EKsFP3jvd

August 4, 2026

PROPOSAL TO THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REQUEST FOR DONATION OF THE FORMER LINCOLN SCHOOL HEAD START BUILDING

INTRODUCTION

The Lincoln Alumni Association respectfully requests that the Lake County Board of Education consider donating the former Head Start/Pre-School building located at 327 College Street, Tiptonville, Tennessee, to the Lincoln Alumni Association once it is vacated by the Head Start program.

This building, which is owned by the Lake County School System, is a former Lincoln School building that holds significant historical importance to many families throughout Lake County. As the Head Start program prepares to relocate, we believe this presents a unique opportunity to preserve the building's legacy while giving it new purpose as a community resource for future generations.

Rather than allowing the building to sit vacant or become underutilized, the Lincoln Alumni Association respectfully requests the opportunity to occupy and transform the facility into a multipurpose community center dedicated to education, workforce development, community engagement, and economic growth.

A LEGACY OF GIVING

Lincoln School has always represented more than education - it has represented opportunity, perseverance, and service to the community.

Historically, Lincoln School generously shared portions of its land to support the expansion of public education and the broader needs of the community, including making land available for the high school and other community uses. That spirit of generosity reflected a belief that community progress benefits everyone.

Today, the Lincoln Alumni Association respectfully asks the Lake County Board of Education to continue that same legacy by allowing this historic Lincoln School building to remain a place of learning, service, and opportunity through its donation to the Association.

VISION FOR THE BUILDING

The Lincoln Alumni Association proposes to renovate and utilize the building as a multi-purpose community resource center serving residents throughout Lake County.



LINCOLN ALUMNI

- ASSOCIATION -

Honoring Our Past. Building Our Future. Serving Our Community.

P.O. Box 152, Tiptonville, TN 38079 | 731-445-6747 | lincolnalumniassoc@gmail.com
labor-choice-r-1773120524.emergent.host/lincoln-alumni | Facebook: facebook.com/share/1EKsFP3jvd

VISION FOR THE BUILDING (CONTINUED)

The facility could include:

- Workforce development and skilled trades training
- Adult education and literacy classes
- Youth mentoring and after-school programs
- College and career readiness initiatives
- Leadership development and civic engagement programs
- Community meeting and conference space
- Small business development and entrepreneurship assistance
- Technology and computer learning center
- Health and wellness education
- Senior citizen programming
- Cultural arts and community events
- Museum and historical exhibits preserving the legacy of Lincoln School
- Emergency response and community support services during disasters
- Office space for nonprofit and community organizations
- Expanding access to technology and educational resources
- Creating opportunities for collaboration among schools, churches, civic groups, businesses, and local government
- Providing a safe gathering place for community events and programs

The building would become a shared community asset that supports organizations and programs working to improve the quality of life throughout Lake County. Most importantly, this project would ensure that a building with deep historical significance continues serving the people of Lake County for generations to come.

BENEFITS TO THE ENTIRE LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY

Donating this building would benefit all residents of Lake County by:

- Preserving an important piece of local history
- Honoring the legacy of Lincoln School and its graduates
- Providing educational opportunities for youth and adults
- Supporting workforce development and job readiness
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and economic development
- Creating a central location for nonprofit and community services
- Attracting grants, philanthropic investment, and private partnerships into Lake County

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Lincoln Alumni Association recognizes the responsibility that comes with ownership and stewardship of this historic property. The Association intends to pursue grants, private donations, fundraising campaigns, corporate sponsorships, foundation support, and strategic partnerships to renovate, maintain, and operate the facility without creating an ongoing financial burden for the Lake County Board of Education.

The Association is committed to preserving the building while developing sustainable programming that serves the entire community.



LINCOLN ALUMNI

- ASSOCIATION -

Honoring Our Past. Building Our Future. Serving Our Community.

P.O. Box 152, Tiptonville, TN 38079 | 731-445-6747 | lincolnalumniassoc@gmail.com
labor-choice-r-1773120524.emergent.host/lincoln-alumni | Facebook: facebook.com/share/1EKsFP3jvd

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY WHILE BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Communities thrive when they preserve the places that helped shape them.

The former Lincoln School building at 327 College Street represents decades of educational achievement, resilience, and community pride. By donating this property to the Lincoln Alumni Association, the Board of Education has an opportunity to ensure that the building continues serving the public rather than becoming vacant.

This proposal is not simply about preserving a historic structure - it is about creating new opportunities for education, leadership, economic development, and community service while honoring those who helped build Lake County.

REQUEST

The Lincoln Alumni Association respectfully requests that the Lake County Board of Education donate the former Head Start/Pre-School building located at 327 College Street, Tiptonville, Tennessee, to the Lincoln Alumni Association upon its vacancy.

The Association requests the opportunity to transform the facility into a multipurpose community resource center that will preserve the building's historic legacy while providing educational, workforce, cultural, and community services that benefit all citizens of Lake County.

CONCLUSION

The Lincoln Alumni Association stands ready to partner with the Lake County Board of Education, Lake County government, local businesses, churches, nonprofits, and community leaders to restore and revitalize this historic building.

The donation of this property would not simply transfer ownership of a building - it would preserve a piece of Lake County's history, honor the legacy of Lincoln School, and create a lasting investment in the future of our community.

We respectfully ask the Lake County Board of Education to consider this request and allow the former Lincoln School building at 327 College Street to continue serving the people of Lake County for generations to come.

Lincoln Alumni Association

Tiptonville, Tennessee