

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2025

**UPDATE: Whittier students to remain on campus during construction with new design plan**

FIRCREST, Wash. – An alternative construction plan developed by Cornerstone General Contractors and McGranahan PBK, which allows Whittier Elementary students to remain on campus during the rebuild instead of relocating to the Eastside swing school, was presented to Tacoma Public Schools and the City of Fircrest.

The new design idea shifts the new school's placement to the south side of the site, with parking, play areas, and fields along the north edge. This approach balances safety, maintains school operations, and reinforces Whittier's connection to the Fircrest community.

"This design idea presented to us by Cornerstone and McGranahan, ensures we can continue to build a high-quality school and stay within budget and timeline," said Morris Aldridge, Executive Director of Planning and Construction for Tacoma Public Schools.

"The City of Fircrest values its partnership with Tacoma Public Schools and remains committed to supporting a project that reflects our community's priorities," said Dawn Masko, City Manager of Fircrest.

Tacoma Public Schools and the City of Fircrest will continue working together to ensure a smooth transition for students, staff and community.

**Upcoming community meeting**

Construction impacts the entire neighborhood, and we want to keep residents informed. Cornerstone General Contractors and McGranahan PBK invite you on Wednesday, Apr. 16, at 6 p.m., at Whittier Elementary (777 Elm Street) to learn more about the new construction idea that allows Whittier Elementary students to remain on campus during the rebuild.

For more information and future updates on the project, please visit [BuildingForAchievement.com](https://BuildingForAchievement.com) or email [planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us](mailto:planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us).