



CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

TPS BOARD MEETING | APRIL 2025

BUILDING FOR
ACHIEVEMENT

TACÔMA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REPLACEMENT PROJECT



Project Overview

- Funded by the 2020 capital bond
- New PreK-3 elementary school
- ~375 students, ~45,000 sq. ft., two stories
- Includes site improvements
- Targeted opening: fall 2027

Community Feedback

- Concerns raised by Whittier parents and Fircrest residents regarding the potential relocation of students to the McKinley swing site.

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- **Proposed Plan**

- New school to be built on the south end of the property.
- Parking, play areas, and fields relocated to the north.
- Students stay in the current building during construction.
- Plan prioritizes safety, minimizes disruption, and keeps students connected to their school.

- **Design & Construction Considerations**

- May exceed 30 ft. height limit.
- Site layout guidelines; placing parking lot in front.
- Potential impact to mature evergreen trees.
- Increased on-site activity may cause traffic congestion.
- Construction staging may require temporary use of Whittier Park.





SITE IMPROVEMENTS:
PARKING, ENTRY PLAZA, PLAY AREA, FIELD

NEW SCHOOL
2-STORIES

WHITTIER PARK



WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- **City of Fircrest Response**

- Idea shared with Fircrest Council on April 8—received strong support; no fatal flaws predicted.
- Fircrest City Manager confirmed proposed idea in the April 11 letter.
- Whittier families and staff were presented the plan April 16—widely supported.

- **Next Steps**

- Coordination with Whittier project team.
- Ongoing partnership and collaboration with the City of Fircrest representatives.
- Forming the Design Advisory Committee (DAC).
- Expand future community meetings and updates with Whittier staff, parents and residents.





THANK YOU

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