

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FEBRUARY 2026 UPDATES

We're pleased to share an update on the Whittier Elementary School Replacement Project and highlight some exciting progress as the design and permitting work continue.

Design Progress

As the design develops, the team is preserving many of the site's prominent existing trees, helping maintain the character of the campus while providing access to nature and supporting outdoor learning spaces. The plans include interactive playgrounds designed to accommodate a range of play and learning styles, including a traffic garden where students can learn bike and pedestrian safety. Additionally, space is being reserved for a future school and community garden that can grow alongside the Whittier community.

The building design continues to support Whittier's educational needs, serving students Pre-K through 3rd grade. A dedicated space for the SUCCESS program has been added. The SUCCESS program is a Kindergarten through 2nd-grade self-contained special education program serving students from across the District who require significant support and receive specially designed instruction for the majority of their day.

Permitting & Technical Work

Permitting with the City of Fircrest is ongoing, with continued coordination to meet City requirements and obtain a Conditional Use Permit. In parallel, the Design-Build team is preparing building and site permit packages, which are anticipated to be submitted in late February. This work helps keep the project on track for construction to begin on time.

Looking Ahead

Construction is anticipated to begin in May 2026 and continue through December 2027 in multiple phases. School operations will remain unchanged until construction begins, and students and staff will stay on campus throughout the project.

As construction approaches, more detailed information will be shared regarding operational modifications, safety measures, and campus logistics. Student safety will remain a top priority, and the District will provide clear communication well in advance of any changes that may affect student drop-off/pick-up and daily school activities.

We appreciate the continued involvement and support of the Whittier community and look forward to sharing additional updates as the project reaches upcoming milestones.

Stay Connected!

For more details and updates, visit Whittier's construction website, where you can share feedback and read a list of frequently asked questions.

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