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EIPS Frequently Asked Questions

sherwood heights replacement school



# FAQs: planning and construction

Q: Who is managing the design of the replacement school?

A: ACI Architecture Inc., with Darryl Rewniak as Project Lead.

Q: Who is managing construction of the replacement school?

A: Once the design development is completed, Alberta Infrastructure will proceed with a procurement process, through which it will select a contractor.

Q: What is the overall budget for the project?

A: $53 Million

Q: How big will the new school be?

A: 8770m², which is 94, 400 sq. ft.

Q: What size will the classrooms be?

A: Classrooms range between 75 m² to 92 m², which is 807 to 990 square feet.

Q: When will construction begin on the replacement school?

A: Pending the approval of a development permit from Strathcona County, it is anticipated
construction will begin the first quarter of 2024.

Q: Why did Alberta Education decide to build a replacement school instead of renovating the existing school?

A: The project was approved as a replacement—as requested by Elk Island Public Schools on its Capital Plan, based on a Value Scoping exercise undertaken by the school jurisdiction in 2020.  The cost of fully modernizing the two facilities would have been comparable to the cost of constructing a new state-of-the-art school replacing both. Building a new facility will also provide a more functional and energy efficient building than could be achieved through modernization. As well, a replacement school project is much less disruptive for staff and students than a major modernization.

Q: What special features will the replacement school have?

A: The new school will be three stories. There will be dedicated kindergarten to Grade 6 learning
space in the north pod, and two-story learning space for grades 7 to 9 on the second and third floors. There will be two gymnasiums to support multiple sporting and event activities, and an expansive playground addition to the site.

Q: What will the impacts of a three-story building be on the surrounding properties?

A: Sun-shadow studies completed during the design of the school show minimal impact on

the neighbourhood via shadow casting of the building. Shadow casting that

may have the most impact on surrounding properties occurs between the months of November to March when the sun is setting around 4:30 p.m.

Q: Will there be a new parking lot and bus loop included in the design? Will it be a bus transfer site?

A: A new parking lot will be completed after Phase 2—which includes the demolition of the existing Sherwood Heights Junior High building. Parking and a bus loop to serve the school will be fully contained on site; there will be no buses parked or school parking located on Fir Street. The bus loop is not being used as a transfer site.

Q: Has Alberta Infrastructure undertaken a traffic assessment study to determine the impact on flow of traffic around the new school?

A: Yes, a first draft of the traffic assessment has been completed.

Q: Do the plans for the replacement school take projected growth rates for the community into account?

A: Yes, the capacity of the new school was determined by Elk Island Public Schools based on their projected enrolment in current and future years, as well as their plans for making use of surplus space in their other schools in Sherwood Park.

Q: Will the replacement school be able to accommodate modular classrooms?

A: The school has not been designed to have modular classrooms added. The core capacity of the new school will be 1,015 students.

Q: How will students be impacted during the construction of the replacement school?

## A: Both Sherwood Heights Junior High, as well as École Campbelltown, will remain operational while the replacement school is under construction.

Q: How will the neighbourhood be impacted during construction of the replacement school?

A: Residents in the neighbourhood may experience some sidewalk closures, potential temporary blockages of the road while equipment is being set up or taken down, and some traffic delays. Depending on the progress of construction, the contractor may from time to time also request after-hours exemptions of the noise by-law. EIPS will share all project updates and any expected neighbourhood disruptions provided by the contractor via its [email distribution list](https://www.eips.ca/schools/newschoolsandmodernizations/sherwood-park-replacement-school-email-sign-up) and on the EIPS [project website](https://www.eips.ca/schools/newschoolsandmodernizations/sherwood-park-replacement-school-email-sign-up).

Q: Will there be an out-of-school care facility within the replacement school, as currently exists at École Campbelltown?

## A: The Government of Alberta does not provide additional funding to build third-party childcare accommodations within schools.

Q: Will all students within the boundaries for both École Campbelltown and Sherwood Heights Junior High be designated to the replacement school?

## A: Kindergarten to Grade 3 students designated to École Campbelltown in 2025-26 will occupy the main floor of the replacement school, with Grades 4 to 6 on the second floor. EIPS is currently undertaking public consultations about its French Immersion program, that will inform the decision about exactly which junior high students will be designated to the replacement school.

Q: Were any public consultations or engagement efforts undertaken before the design of the replacement school?

## A: Originally, the design work was undertaken with the understanding the school would be constructed under the P3 model—which builds new schools based on existing designs. The design was largely completed when in December 2022, the Government of Alberta announced the P3 model would not be used going forward. While EIPS was permitted some input into interior features, the Division is not managing the project and there was no opportunity to consult with the community before the design was selected.

Q: Will there be opportunities for community input going forward?

## A: There will be two opportunities for public feedback moving forward:

## At the public information sessions, attendees will have the chance to review two colour choices for the exterior of the building—and indicate which is their preferred choice.

## As construction begins, EIPS will request public feedback on name choices for the replacement school. The Board of Trustees will take suggested school names under consideration when making the final decision.

Q: How can school families and members of the community stay updated on the progress of the replacement school project?

A: There will be regular updates made to the Division’s project website. As well, families and community members can sign up for the project distribution list, which will be used exclusively to share information about updates and disruptions.

Q: Who do school families and community members contact if there are additional questions or concerns?

A: School families and members of the public can email EIPS, who will act as an intermediary with the project manager and the contractor to address any questions or concerns that come forward. The Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated accordingly.