

The Sorenson ECC expansion project proposes to remove the two existing portable classrooms and a covered play shed (at Westhill ES), and construct four new classrooms, (including a large double-sized classroom for Extended Day program use), a multi-purpose activity room, and several offices for therapists and counselors. The new construction would consist of a single-story 10,367 square foot building addition to the southwest side of the existing building. The addition would increase the school capacity from approximately 180 to approximately 210 students for a net increase of 30 students per session. Staff numbers are anticipated to increase from 71 to 81. An inclusive play area would also be constructed on the west side of the Sorenson building. Improvements to Westhill ES would be made as described below to accommodate the construction.

The site design would retain the existing bus loop with some reconfiguring of circulation for parents/visitors. The drop-off loop for parents would enter the existing southern driveway near Westhill ES and provide a queuing lane along the front of the Westhill ES, turning west onto the existing fire lane, which would also double as a drop-off loop between the two schools. The longer queuing lane on-site would pull more cars off of 88th Ave NE and separate parents from bus traffic. All three existing driveways would be maintained, and parents/visitors would have limited access to the new staff parking lot west of the Sorenson ECC, entering/exiting from the two northern driveways into the existing parking lot only when buses are not scheduled. Minor improvements are planned for the existing parking lot, including a shift in landscape buffer area, restriping and narrowing of the drive aisle width to allow for frontage improvements. Other parking lot improvements include striping a new accessible parking stall (bringing the total to three in the existing lot), crosswalk and providing a new ramp near the existing entry plaza. The reconfiguration coordinates with the staggered school start time between the Sorenson ECC parents and the Westhill ES parents for circulation to function adequately.

Sorenson would be gaining a total of 20 striped parking spots, two of which are additional ADA accessible spots. The ECC staff would be gaining 15 parking stalls (one of which is an accessible stall) at the end of the parent drop-off loop southwest of the new building addition, and the existing lot used for parents, visitors, and staff would gain five spots (one of which is an additional ADA accessible spot) when six existing hatched/restricted areas are restriped to allow parking and one existing stall is lost due to hatching to allow an adjacent space to be converted to accessible. The existing eastern Westhill ES parking would have minor modifications and restriping, resulting in no net gain of spots, but would gain two accessible spots.

There would be minor improvements to Westhill ES, south of Sorenson ECC, that are necessary to facilitate the improvements to circulation for the Sorenson ECC operation. These improvements include:

- New inclusive play area and ADA ramp access (west end of campus) – Westhill ES specific improvement.
- New covered play area (west end of campus) – to replace demolished and displaced covered play as recreational use to accommodate the parking loop – Westhill ES specific improvement.
- New parking drop-off loop (parking for Sorenson ECC, parent loop for both schools) – most of it is on Westhill ES property.

- Minor curb revisions to Eastern lot – widening drop-off area by reducing middle island width (to benefit both schools), net gain of zero parking spots, but adding new one, and re-stripping one to provide two ADA stalls to benefit Westhill.

The project does require permit approval from the city of Bothell for a Conditional Use Permit and building permits. Construction can not start until the required permits are approved. Both schools will remain fully occupied during construction. The contractor will develop construction plans to designate construction zones separate from school occupied zones. The building addition is planned to be constructed in the location of the current portables and play area. The portables will be removed, and the play area closed off from student use prior to construction; during construction play areas will be provided in the side yards directly outside of the classrooms.

The project schedule includes:

- Conditional Use Permit Submittal October 2023.
- Building Permit Submittal October 2023.
- Make ready construction activities to occur in April – June 2024 (preparing safety measures, services, and other preparation activities).
- Construction work to proceed on-site at the start of Summer 2024 in mid-June.
- Substantial completion in summer of 2025.
- Open for school use at the start September 2025.