



Tacoma Public Schools

CAPITAL PROJECTS

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY REPLACEMENT



ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PLANS

What to expect about the construction plans for the new Whittier school.

- **Project timeline and construction phases** – Key milestones, estimated start and completion dates and what to expect during each phase.
- **Transition and adjustments** – Temporary relocations and adjustments; changes to transportation; safety measures.
- **Q&A community feedback** – Ask questions; share your thoughts; future opportunities for input and engagement.

WHITTIER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Whittier is one of 8 school replacements or renovations funded by the \$535 million school construction bond voters passed in 2020.

Current Whittier Elementary

- Built in 1962
- Sits at 32,881 sq ft.
- 311 current student enrollment
- Serves PreK-3 students

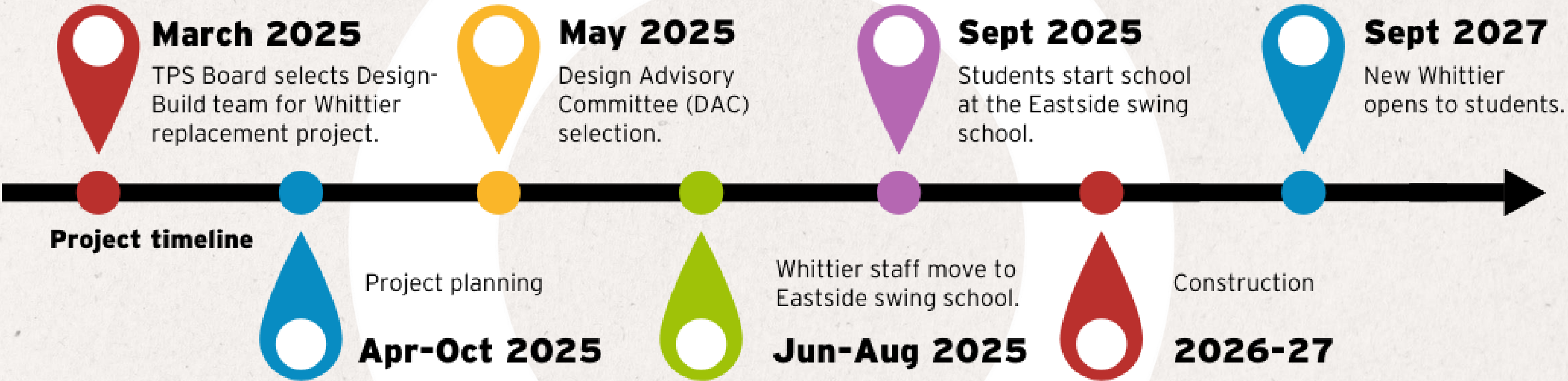
New Whittier Elementary

- Anticipated 40,000 sq. ft.
- Up to 375 projected student enrollment
- Remains PreK-3
- Opens fall 2027



WHITTIER REPLACEMENT PROJECT TIMELINE

The existing Whittier building will be demolished with construction of the new school from 2026 to 2027. Whittier staff and students will use the Eastside swing school—former historic McKinley Elementary School—for the next two school years, as their new school is built.



TRANSITION PLAN

An alternative plan to keep students on-site was presented to the public last spring, but it was ultimately not supported.

While Whittier is under construction, students will attend school at the Eastside swing site for two years from 2025-27.

Transitions & Adjustments

- **Whittier staff move out/in:** June-Aug 2025
- **1st day of school:** Students attend Eastside school in the fall, Sept. 2025.
- **Transportation:** Students living in the current Whittier boundary will receive transportation.
- **Before/After school programs:** any programs provided by the school will remain in effect.





ABOUT EASTSIDE

McKinley Elementary School, a designated historic site in Tacoma, closed in 2011. Today, it serves as a temporary school for students and staff during school renovations or replacements.

Eastside school, 3702 E. McKinley Ave.

- **Secured site:** Eastside school is fully-fenced
- **ADA improvements:** new elevator and ramps
- **Safety & Security:** secure main entry vestibule with new intercom & camera, card reader systems at all exit/entry doors, interior & exterior cameras
- **Playgrounds:** (2) K-5 playsets, pre-K small toy & swings
- **HVAC:** new heating, ventilation & air-conditioning system
- **Lighting:** new LED lighting in classrooms/common areas
- **Technology:** upgraded technology

GET INVOLVED

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Community meetings & open forums
- Website feedback button
- Dedicated email address
- Social media posts, polls and surveys
- Design Advisory Committee (DAC)
- QR codes & signage

STAY CONNECTED

Scan the code to visit Whittier's construction website to follow the construction progress, share feedback and view frequently asked questions.



Stay informed and connected throughout the project.

For updates and important information visit

BuildingforAchievement.com or email planning@tacoma.k12.wa.us.

Thank you for your support and engagement!





QUESTIONS?

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