



Hammers & Horseshoes

WPS PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT



Dear Wyoming Staff and Community,

October brought exciting progress and important next steps for our Primary Facilities Construction Project. Below are highlights from recent weeks and a look ahead at what's coming next as we continue *Building What Matters*.

Hilltop School Construction Moves Forward with Adjusted Timeline

The Hilltop School project continues to make strong progress. Building demolition at the site is now complete, and the Board of Education has approved the early site package, allowing grading, earthwork, and foundational site preparation to begin immediately. These milestones mark a significant transition from planning to active construction.

As work accelerates, our project team has also refined the construction schedule to reflect the realities of managing a complex, multi-year effort. The revised plan incorporates a planned "winter gap" for critical behind-the-scenes work, ensuring both efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Change to Hilltop School and Vermont School Construction Timelines

The construction timeline for Hilltop School is shifting. Students and staff currently using Friendship United Methodist Church as a temporary instructional space are now scheduled to move into the new Hilltop School over the summer of 2027 (rather than December 2026). As a result, Vermont School students and staff will begin using Friendship United Methodist Church as a temporary instructional space in August of 2027 and will be scheduled to move into the new Vermont School in August 2028.

The timeline for Elm School construction (summer 2026-summer 2027) remains unchanged.

Why the Change?

The initial timeline represented a best-case, aggressive schedule. The revised plan reflects the realities of managing a complex, multi-year project and incorporates the following factors:

- **Procurement Delays:** Lead times for specialized materials, such as electrical gear and structural joists and decks, are longer than initially anticipated.
- **Strategic Project Management:** The construction management team has consolidated small, intermittent delays into a single planned "winter gap" (approximately January-April 2026). This approach allows critical background work, like bidding and procurement, to continue efficiently while avoiding costs tied to maintaining a full on-site crew during poor weather.

Impacts of the Change:

- **Academic Calendar Review:** The 2026-2027 school year calendar will be reviewed and potentially adjusted. Because the moves into the new Hilltop School and out of Vermont school will now take place over the summer of 2027, the previously planned three-week winter break is no longer necessary. A revised calendar is anticipated to be presented at the November 19 Board of Education Planning Meeting and November 24 Board of Education Regular Meeting.
- **Move-In Dates:** All building moves are now scheduled during summer break, ensuring no disruption to instruction.
- **Project Cost:** This strategic shift helps minimize financial inefficiencies related to weather and staffing interruptions.
- **Temporary Space:** The district will work with Friendship United Methodist Church to extend the use of their facility as a temporary instructional space through Summer 2028.

Positive Highlights:

While this adjustment extends the schedule slightly, it brings several key benefits:

- **Better Academic Alignment:** Moving Hilltop and Vermont Schools over the summer avoids mid-year transitions, giving teachers more time to set up and reducing stress for staff and students.
- **Improved Construction Efficiency:** The winter gap allows time for planning and procurement, avoiding costly cold-weather construction measures.
- **Stable Overall Timeline:** The full three-building project remains largely on track with the overall duration that was originally shared with the community.

Construction Project Events

We are continuing to plan for the construction of Elm School and Vermont School through the Design Workshop process. Most recently, we held the second Elm Design Workshop on October 15. Please join us for an upcoming Design Workshop:

- **Vermont School Design Workshop #1:** 6:30 p.m. tonight - Monday, Nov. 10 at Vermont School
- **Elm School Design Workshop #3:** 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 8 at Elm School

And please join us for the **Hilltop School Ceremonial Groundbreaking at 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24 at the Hilltop School Construction Site, 425 Oliver Road.** Students, staff, families, residents, alumni - Come join the fun! The ceremony will begin sharply at 4 p.m. on the Oliver Road side of the construction site. We look forward to sharing this milestone with you!

*We are grateful for the continued support of our staff, families, and community as we work together to **Build What Matters** - safe, modern, and inspiring learning spaces for Wyoming students.*

