

## **Proposed Campus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

What would happen to the current facilities if the middle and high school programs were to move to the Elmhurst site?

ECS currently has a lease on the middle school site on Columbo Street. It expires on June 30, 2028. While there is some flexibility, ECS would vacate without penalty by that date. ECS leases the high school facility and will vacate that space without penalty.

What about the primary and intermediate schools?

Our other schools also have space challenges. There are seven years remaining on the lease with the primary school and ECS will need to figure out what's next. The Intermediate School is our flagship school and, as such, we will not move from it. We do need to invest in the facility and many people, including facilities, are thinking about re-investment.

Why not wait for a better option?

If this option is not right, ECS will not move forward.

This process has allowed us to turn over all possible stones and identify the best options. ECS is in a position of strength. Right now, the commercial real estate market is in our favor, but that could change over time. We have good options, although none are perfect, but each offers opportunities and challenges.

What is the square footage of the Middle School?

The middle school is 60,000 sq.ft., but only 36,000 sq.ft. is programmable.

What kind of space is available at the proposed site?

The indoor space is 89,211 sq.ft. which will allow for 42 classrooms at or more than 800 sq.ft. Specialty spaces could include a literacy lab, remix lab, robotics lab, and hydroponics, along with a gymnasium and cafeteria.

How does a new location impact enrollment?

Currently, enrollment at the middle school is just over 300 and the high school is 200, so approximately 500 students between the two programs.

In a new facility, ECS could add as many as 150-200 more students for a total of approximately 650-700 students between the two programs.

Will there be changes to special education or student services with this move?

No. Any move would have no impact on services ECS currently provides.

Will anyone lose their jobs, or will you need to immediately staff up for the larger space?

No. If both programs move to the proposed location, we will maintain two separate and independent teams, just as they are now.

As the schools grow and enrollment increases in the future, we anticipate additional employees may be needed to support those students.

What is the plan with the home office?

Currently, the home office has space in the middle school and at Kingsley. In the proposed campus, space is available to bring them together to one location. Right now, we are focused on students and the academic team.

Does the proposed campus include a large gathering space?

Yes. The Elmhurst site would provide for a gymnasium and large cafeteria.

Will this allow ECS to attract students from other areas?

Yes. ECS would be better positioned to serve students from all across the City of Pittsburgh and adjacent school districts.

What was this site before?

This is the site for the former Eliza Furnace and Jones & Laughlin (J & L) Steel. It has transitioned from industrial production to brownfield to the redevelopment project that it is today.

Are there out the door opportunities at the new site?

Yes. There is ample open space immediately outside of the facility for out the door learning opportunities and programs. There is a 2-acre lot adjacent to the facility, and open space across the state.

There are also a number of nearby opportunities for out the door learning including the Monongahela River, the Great Allegheny Passage, Hazelwood Green, and South Shore Park.

Is there parking at the proposed campus?

Yes. There are as many as 250 parking spaces available.

What other ways are there for people to get to the site?

Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) serves the site. The average ride time for current students is approximately 46 minutes.

The nearby Great Allegheny Passage and Eliza Furnace Trail allow for access with an exit right across the street, with pedestrian signalization at the traffic signal.

What do we know about this site and emissions from the Parkway East?

The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) monitors air quality in Allegheny County. They operate a near-road monitor at the Wilkinsburg exit which they call the “Parkway East” monitor. [You can learn more about ACHD Air Quality Monitoring here.](#) This monitor measures particulate matter (PM2.5) coming from vehicle emissions.

When would this transition occur?

ECS must still negotiate a lease with the owner of the property, the Elmhurst Group. The final lease will contain a date for opening the building. At this point, we anticipate making this move for the start of the 2027-28 school year. However, this could change.

When I search Google maps for best bus routes, it tells me that students must walk down Bates or Brady Street? Is that right?

This is a problem with filtering on Google Maps. To resolve this, take the following steps.

- Open Google Maps and input the address 743 Technology Drive (15219)
- Click “Directions”
- Input your home address
- Select “Public Transit”
- When routes are provided, select “Options”
- Under “Routes” select “Less Walking”
- Close the “options” window
- You can also select specific arrival or departure times under “Leave Now”

While there may still be routes available that show walking down Bates or Brady Streets, other options will be more visible.