



# **New James B. Edwards Elementary School**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General Information**

**1. When will the new school open?**

Answer: August 2028

**2. Will there be an orientation or campus tour closer to August 2026 before school starts?**

Answer: Yes, we will have grade-level orientations on August 7, 2026 from 8:00am - 11:30am.

**3. How will updates be communicated to families?**

Answer: Mr. Bloomfield will send updates as needed via Finalsite Mass Notification System (noreply@ccsdschools.com)

### **Car Rider Procedures**

**4. What is the new drop-off and pick-up route?**

Answer: Reference the map provided on the back of the flyer

**5. What times should families arrive?**

Answer: Drop-off and supervision begin at 7:00 am, and instruction begins at 7:25 am. Parents should arrive on time so that students are not tardy. Therefore, families should arrive between 7:00 am and 7:23 am (2 minutes transition time)

**6. Will staff direct traffic during arrival and dismissal?**

Answer: Yes, until the traffic pattern is understood by all visitors

**7. Where can parents park or wait safely?**

Answer: From August 2026 to August 2028, parking will be located at the south end of the site, beside the temporary car rider loop

**8. Will parents be able to walk students into school on the first day?**

Answer: Due to the new carpool routing and limited parking, parents will not be allowed to walk students into school on the first day.

### **Bus Transportation**

**9. Will bus routes or stop times change?**

Answer: At this time, we do not anticipate any changes to existing routes or times.

**10. Where will buses load and unload students?**

Answer: From August 2026 to August 2028, bus loading will be located at the new bus loop on the north end of the site.

**11. How will students know which bus to board?**

Answer: School administrators assigned to assist with bus loading will provide guidance on which buses to board.

**12. How many buses will there be?**

Answer: At this time, there are 8 buses that serve JBE.

**13. Would you consider electric buses to reduce noise?**

Answer: The District's route buses are provided by the State. None of the buses in the States' inventory are electric and the District does not have the electric charging infrastructure. However, all of the James B Edwards route buses are powered by propane which creates noticeably less noise than diesel.

## Student Safety

**13. What new safety features are included on campus?**

Answer: The new safety corridor will be installed to protect students, parents, and staff from the construction site where the new building will be completed. The construction fencing will have net screening installed to help mitigate construction debris and deter anyone from standing near the construction. Additional lighting will be installed for the parking lot to provide clear visibility after hours. Relocation of the playgrounds away from the construction site and construction activities. Safety gate at Dearsly Court installed to only operate during pickup and dropoff time periods, to reduce visitors onsite and redirect them with signage to the front office for check-in.

**14. How will visitors check into the school?**

Answer: At the front desk, through the new safety corridor.

**15. What supervision will be provided during arrival and dismissal?**

Answer: Teachers and support staff will supervise students during arrival and dismissal.

**16. How are pedestrians and crosswalks being protected?**

Answer: Existing crosswalk signage will remain in place, directing pedestrians around the site. As a safety precaution, the construction team will wear Personal Protective Equipment with a high-visibility safety vest to help direct any construction activities outside of the construction fencing (i.e., moving construction equipment, material, or personnel across the campus).

## Walking & Biking

**17. Are there safe walking paths and bike areas?**

Answer: All safe pathways are identified on site with proper signage, leading visitors to the new safety corridor and front desk. Safety gate at Dearsly Court installed to only operate during pickup and drop-off time periods, to reduce visitors on site and redirect them with signage to the front office for check-in.

**18. Where should walkers and bike riders enter the campus?**

Answer: From Von Kolnitz along the bus loop entrance, and through the bus drop-off canopy.

## Construction

**19. What construction has occurred on campus since the end of the previous school year?**

Answer: The new bus loop and horizontal exit have been completed, utilities have been relocated and temporary learning cottages have been installed.

**20. What construction activities are anticipated to continue during the 2026–2027 school year?**

Answer: Demolition of the annex building followed by construction on the new school building.

**21. What is the anticipated construction schedule, and approximately when is work expected to be completed?**

Answer: The building is scheduled for occupancy summer of 2028 with all site work completed in the fall of 2028.

**22. During what hours will construction generally occur? Will work take place during the school day while students are present?**

Answer: Generally, construction hours will be from 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Work will continue on Saturday and Sunday as deemed necessary to maintain the project schedule. Work will take place while students are present with parameters in place to not disrupt student learning and testing.

**23. Will any areas of the campus be inaccessible to students or staff because of construction?**

Answer: Yes, students will not be allowed in the construction area which is fully enclosed with fencing.

**24. Will any classrooms or instructional spaces be relocated or housed in temporary facilities? If so, for how long?**

Answer: Yes, the third grade have been relocated into temporary learning cottages for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years.

**25. Why is a new sidewalk near the bus loop?**

Answer: Along the north end of the bus loop, an existing pedestrian sidewalk connection from Von Kolnitz Road was incorporated into the project design and extended farther along the bus loop to maintain a safe and accessible pedestrian route during the construction period. Removal is anticipated to occur during the spring/summer of 2028 as part of the transition to the final campus configuration.

## Lighting

**26. What will be done regarding the lights shining in neighbors homes from the bus loop and learning cottages (e.g. portables)?**

Answer: The lights are expected to operate on temporary timers until they are connected to the building control system when the new school opens in 2028. CCSD will determine the operating schedule for the temporary timers and the permanent building controls. The wall-mounted light fixtures ("wall packs") were installed as part of the Ladson project but are not required to meet the egress lighting requirements at JBE. As a result, these fixtures may be removed or turned off effective immediately.

## Noise

**27. Construction Noise (Vibrating Equipment)**

Answer: Vibration monitoring will continue in accordance with industry standards, and the project team will provide advance notice to nearby residents when appropriate. The vibration experienced by nearby residents was caused by proof rolling for the new bus loop pavement. This work has been completed in the area closest to neighboring homes, and the contractor monitored vibration levels throughout the activity. Additional vibration may occur during later phases of construction, including installation of earthquake drains and paving preparation, but these activities will take place farther from adjacent residences.

**28. What design features can help accommodate noise (e.g. height of fence, type of fence)?**

Answer: Liollo reviewed the traffic noise concerns with the project traffic engineer as a courtesy. The traffic engineer noted that highway traffic noise studies are typically conducted for properties located within approximately 800 feet of a roadway. The neighboring properties to the north of the site are approximately 2,000 feet from U.S. Highway 17 and approximately 1,200 to 1,600 feet from Interstate 526.

- 29. Softball team music is offensive and loud between 4:30 p.m. until 10:00pm. In addition, the PE music is loud during the school day**

Answer: Volume was addressed with Lucy Beckham High School before the end of the season in May 2026. It will be reemphasized before the start of next softball season.

## Tree Line Buffer

- 30. Removal of the tree buffer causes negative impacts to neighbor viewing of the school, lights, and noise (e.g. loss of privacy).**

Answer: A new landscape buffer approved by the Town of Mt. Pleasant will be installed as weather permits, with additional and larger plantings included in response to neighborhood feedback. It is recommended that the new landscaping and fencing be completed before determining whether any additional buffering measures, including landscaping on adjacent private property, are necessary.

- 31. What type of trees (e.g. size and height) will be planted?**

Answer: Landscaping Engineers have upgraded the 25 ft and 10 ft buffer zones where trees were removed, but will be replaced with more mature-sized trees and scrubs (Live Oaks 16'-18', Carolina Cherry Laurel 12', Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum 9', Eisenhower Elms 10', Eagleston holly 12', est.).

## Traffic Concerns

- 32. How will you mitigate traffic backing up on Von Kolnz?**

Answer: The current design includes a double-stacked vehicle queue (car loop) that allows more vehicles to queue on school property, reducing the number of vehicles waiting on Von Kolnitz Road. Compared to the conditions prior to the installation of the new car loop, the current design accommodates more vehicles on-site, helping to improve traffic flow and minimize congestion on the adjacent roadway.

## School Design Layout

- 33. Why is the bus loop on the neighbors' side?**

Answer: The project team worked with all the proper agencies and followed all guidelines required throughout the process, in most instances, going above and beyond requirements. The bus loop placement was explained. The guidelines have significantly changed since the original building was built, and we have now provided over 2,000 linear feet (with double stacking) for the car loop.

## Property Separation/Easement

- 34. Concern that the District will need to access neighbors' properties to maintain the new fence and landscaping.**

Answer: CCSD Facilities Maintenance will ensure that all routine landscape and site maintenance activities are planned and performed entirely within District-owned property boundaries and will not require access to or entry onto neighboring properties.

- 35. Concern with new fence height being too low.**

Answer: Although the District's standard fence height is 6 feet, an 8-foot privacy fence is being installed along the north property line to provide additional screening for adjacent homes.

## Stormwater Drainage

- 36. A large area (e.g. 20ft width and 3 foot deep) behind a neighbors property is collecting water and running into the neighbors property.**

Answer: The project civil engineer will review the drainage conditions with the contractor during the next site visit to confirm that the system was installed in accordance with the approved plans and to recommend any additional measures, if needed.

## Environmental and Safety

- 37. The asbestos abatement specifications included in the construction documents, if applicable.**

Answer: Link: [Asbestos Remediation Plan](#)

- 38. The project's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Management Plan during construction**

Answer: Link: [Asbestos IAQ Management Plan for Construction](#)

- 39. The existing James B. Edward's ES Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Management Plan.**

Answer: Link: [Asbestos AHERA Management Plan](#)

- 40. Any air monitoring reports or environmental monitoring results for work occurring adjacent to occupied portions of the campus.**

Answer: None at this time. Once demolition of the existing building begins, environmental monitoring will begin.

- 41. What Hazmat surveys have been completed for the project?**

Answer: Link: [JBE Hazmat Survey - Nov. 2025](#)

- 42. Information describing the engineering controls and procedures being used to protect students and staff from dust, airborne contaminants, and other construction-related hazards while school is in session.**

Answer: Because construction and demolition activities will occur while the school remains occupied, the Contractor shall implement engineering controls and work procedures to protect students, faculty, staff, visitors, and school operations from dust, airborne contaminants, asbestos fibers, odors, noise, and other construction-related hazards.

- **Physical Separation and Containment**

- Construction areas shall be physically separated from occupied school areas using continuous, secure barriers. Barriers shall be maintained in good condition throughout construction and shall prevent unauthorized access and migration of dust or airborne contaminants.
- Construction entrances and exits shall be separated from student and staff circulation routes whenever practicable. Construction personnel shall not use occupied-school entrances, corridors, or other student circulation areas unless specifically authorized.
- All penetrations, openings, doors, windows, shafts, and other pathways between construction areas and occupied spaces shall be sealed or otherwise protected to prevent contaminant migration.

- **2. Dust and Particulate Control**
  - Dust-generating activities shall be controlled at the source. Engineering controls shall include, as applicable:
    - Wet methods for applicable cutting, drilling, grinding, and demolition activities.
    - Dust suppression during demolition and excavation.
    - Enclosed or covered debris chutes and containers.
    - Sealed containers for dusty materials.
    - Temporary partitions and containment barriers.
    - Tack mats and controlled construction entrances.
    - Prompt removal of construction debris.

## Additional Resources

**43. Will a traffic flow map be provided?**

Answer: Yes, the new car loop map is located on the back of the flyer.

**44. Who should families contact with questions?**

Answer: Sheldon Bloomfield at [sheldon\\_bloomfield@charlestoncountyschools.gov](mailto:sheldon_bloomfield@charlestoncountyschools.gov)

**45. Where can I find additional information?**

Answer: [LINK TO PAGE ON CCSD WEBSITE FOR MONTHLY UPDATES](#)

**46. Where can I find answers to previously asked questions?**

Answer: [LINK TO QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM COMMUNITY MEETING ON MARCH 20, 2025](#)