

Chehalis School District Construction Update-Fall 2017

What is the status of the new elementary buildings in Chehalis?

The James W. Lintott Elementary School (PK-2) is moving forward on schedule. This school is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 2017-2018 school year. The walls are up and the second story is being installed. Visit our website to view the work in progress:

<http://chehalisschools.org/new-school-updates/>

Construction of the Orin C. Smith Elementary School (3-5) is delayed pending passage of the capital budget by the state.

State capital funds already scheduled for school construction projects across the state, including Chehalis School District, are currently on hold, awaiting the State Legislature's approval of a capital budget for the 2017-19 biennium. Without an approved capital budget, the funds are unavailable for construction projects.

What is the impact of the delay Orin C. Smith Elementary School project due to a lack of a capital budget?

Without an approved budget, work can't begin. Therefore, the district is unable to accept construction bids for work on Orin C. Smith Elementary School. This means the building will not open in time for the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, and because construction costs are rising, the delay may mean costs are higher than previously budgeted.

Will the schools open in time for the 2018-19 school year?

The James W. Lintott Elementary School (PK-2) is on schedule and expected to be ready next fall. The Chehalis School District is working to determine how this school can open when the other building is still under construction.

Orin C. Smith Elementary School is scheduled to be completed 12 months after the bids are awarded. Award of bid is dependent on the passing of the capital budget.

What about the STEM wing?

The STEM wing is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. The project is moving forward on schedule.

When will the capital budget pass?

The Legislature will decide.

Will the Cascade and R.E. Bennett school buildings still be sold?

The buildings are still for sale, contingent on the District being able to use the buildings until the new schools open.

Are other school districts in the same situation as Chehalis?

Yes, numerous school districts across the state are impacted.

What is the next step and where can I get more information?

We are optimistic we will open James W. Lintott Elementary School on time next year-fall 2018. The board has not made a decision, but if the Orin C. Smith Elementary School is not completed it is possible that Cascade and/or Bennett would continue to be used for one more year.

For more information, visit www.WAschoolconstruction.org.