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Burke Mountain Schools Sites FAQ

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How are school sites determined?

Based on birth rate information, the amount of housing, the type of housing, migration rates, and census data in the area that is designated within the municipality's Official Community Plan (OCP), the school district is able to project the amount of schools that will be needed to service a community.

Once population projections are confirmed, the school district is able to determine the overall student count which is then broken down into the amount of schools needed at each school level (elementary, middle and secondary). The school district works with the municipality to determine the number and location of the schools to best service the needs of the community. The district determines school site locations by factors that include availability of sites, surrounding community structures, suitability of sites, and cost analysis. All factors included enable the school district to work with the municipality to determine the best available site for future schools.

What will the capacity be at each of the schools?

Capacity at each school is based on enrolment projections and is approved by the Ministry of Education. The capacity for each school level in the Burke Mountain community will be approximately 400–450 students for elementary, 600–650 students for middle, and 1000–1200 students for secondary school level.

What steps are involved when obtaining land for a school?

School district land purchases are funded through a combination of School Site Acquisition Charges (SSAC), restricted capital held by the district, and on occasion through provincial contributions or land grants. A number of steps take place prior to the acquisition of school land:

1. The school district submits to the Province an Annual Capital Plan with projected needs.
2. The school district submits a "snapshot" analysis that outlines basic details of the proposed school along with general requirements of the site.
3. The school district submits preliminary analysis of a potential site including Phase 1 Environmental Analysis and geotechnical work.
4. Approval is obtained from the Ministry to obtain conditional purchase agreements.
5. Land is assembled.
6. Approval is obtained by the Board of Education subject to information from land appraisals.
7. Approval is obtained from the Province in order to access funds.

What is the funding process for the construction of schools?

Traditionally, funding for the construction of new schools came from the Ministry of Education. Recently, funding for new construction has mainly been approved under the seismic umbrella with only a few examples of funding for new schools due to lifecycle or enrolment pressures. Through the Ministry's new Capital Management Strategy, school districts may be asked to contribute to the funding of capital projects (including funds realized from the disposition of surplus lands). A number of steps take place prior to approval to construct:

1. The school district submits an Annual Capital Plan with projected needs.
2. A suitable site is secured and approved.
3. The school district submits a Project Information Report (PIR) when initial project approval is obtained.

4. The school district submits a Project Definition Report (PDR) which includes more detailed analysis.
5. Approval is obtained with a Project Agreement (PA) from the Ministry which includes funding specifics.

What parameters are used to prioritize SD43’s Capital Plan projects?

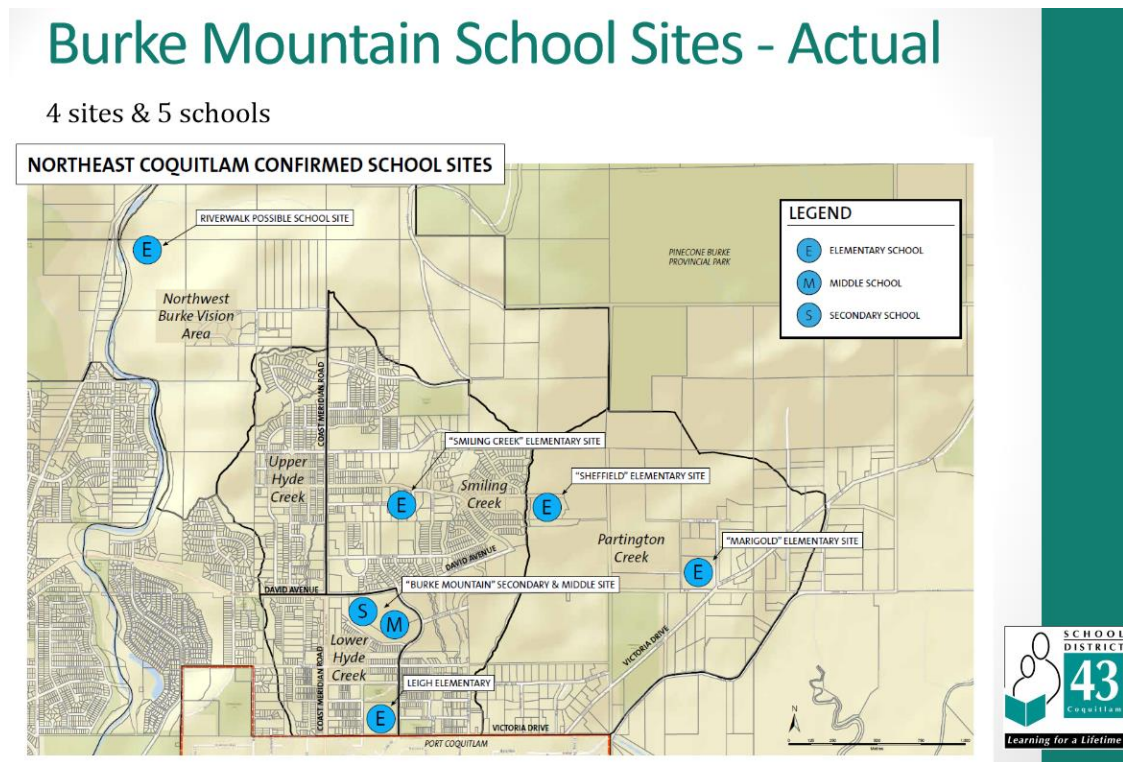
Items are prioritized based on many factors including seismic risk, enrolment changes, and facility age and building condition.

What is the current status on the first elementary school in the Smiling Creek neighbourhood?

As our Board took the proactive approach of providing preliminary funding, no delays have been caused to date. School district staff have been working with architects and the City of Coquitlam on the planning and design of the school and park site. We are waiting for approval and funding from the Ministry. We are still on target for a September 2018 opening subject to Ministerial approval and funding coming soon.

What is the status of obtaining the other Burke Mountain school sites?

SD43 has obtained sites for the Sheffield and Marigold Elementary schools as well as for the middle and secondary schools (see diagram below). Having the sites will allow us to move more quickly through the planning process. We have also been working with the City on making the joint middle/secondary school site a joint park/school site that will allow for mutual benefits for the school and community.



How will you accommodate students until the first elementary school is built?

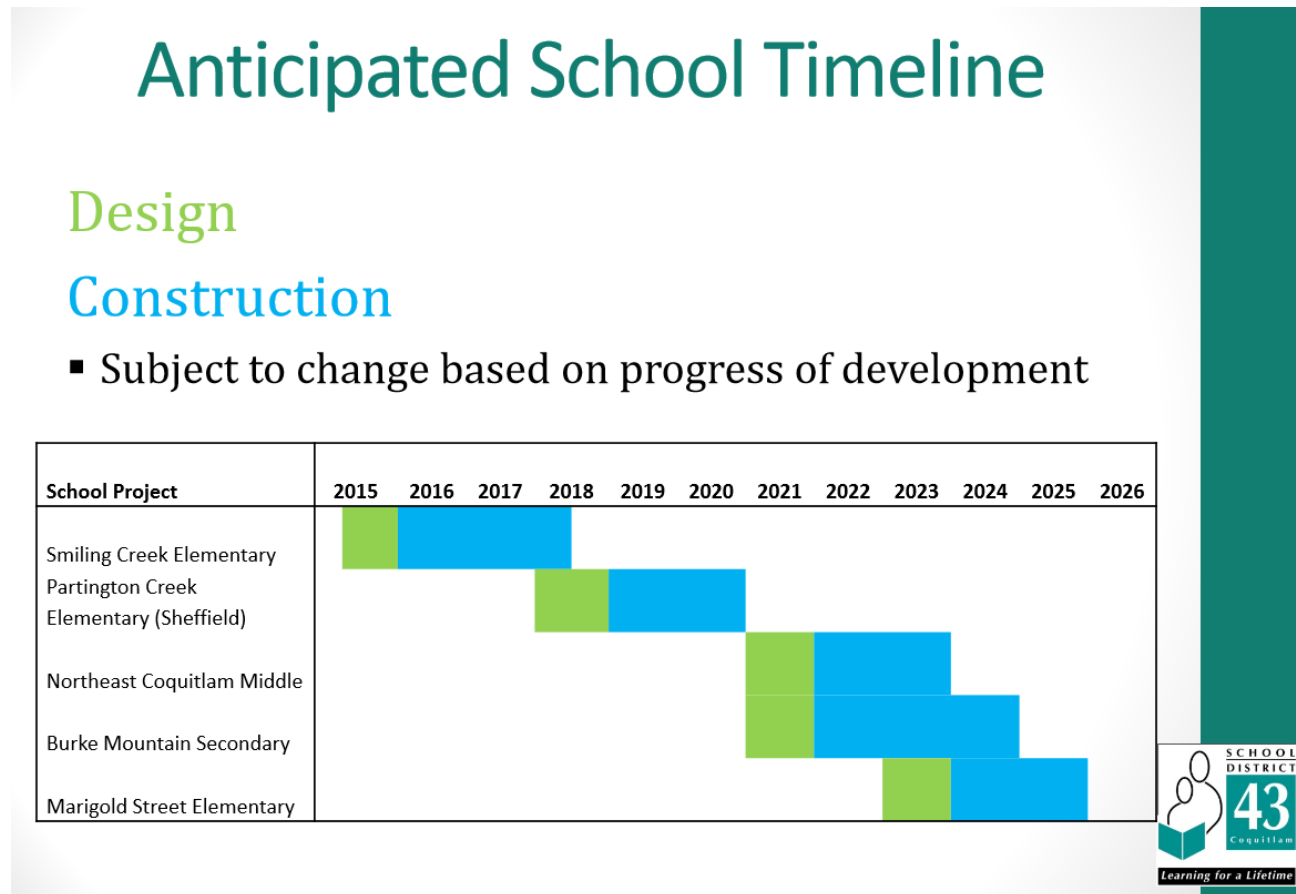
While the first elementary school is constructed, additional classroom space is being added to Leigh and Irvine Elementary schools. Current enrolment and projections indicate we have additional classroom space also available at Coquitlam River Elementary.

Why did you decide to build an elementary school first?

Enrolment projections indicated that we were in need of additional elementary spaces first as there was limited open capacity at neighbouring elementary schools. Current enrolment and enrolment projections indicate that we have open capacity at neighbouring middle and secondary schools. For example, Minnekhada Middle currently has approximately 450 students and has a capacity of 600 students.

What is the timeline for the other Burke Mountain schools to open?

We are currently undergoing our regular annual review of our enrolment projections to see if the proposed school opening dates shared with the Burke Mountain community in June, 2015 (see timeline provided below) will remain as is or may be moved based on updated demographic data. When the enrolment projection review is completed, we will re-assess the timeline for proposed new schools on Burke Mountain.



How will the school district manage two schools on one site?

The school district has multiple school sites that use shared commodities. In the school district we have shared/adjacent sites with elementary and middle schools as well as a joint middle/secondary school site. An example of a joint middle/secondary school that has been a tremendous success is Eagle Mountain Middle and Heritage Woods Secondary in Anmore/Port Moody. Strategies that have been working well include two separate drop-off and pick-up areas, separate parking areas, staggered start and end times, and additional gym space or parking space for programs/activities. It is also convenient to set up mentorships or joint programming such as a joint school choir for both older and younger students.

Will there be additional school sites needed? What will you do if there is a need for additional space?

School sites are always planned with additions in mind so if there is a need for additional space, the district will be able to accommodate. The City of Coquitlam is currently in the visioning stage for Northwest Burke Mountain. Once the planning stage is complete for that area, a determination will be made if an additional site is required.