

Black Diamond Elementary replacement need is now

Results from the District's recent extensive and comprehensive state-required [Study and Survey](#) put Black Diamond Elementary School at the top of the list for replacement. The Study and Survey was conducted by an outside consulting team at each of the District's nine school facilities and gives each facility a priority score. The score reflects building and site facilities in terms of their construction components, as well as the ability to meet educational program needs appropriate for 21st century learning. The team also evaluated the cost of renovation, modernization or replacement. All of this combined data provided the basis on which to determine District facility needs and estimate construction costs. **In each category, Black Diamond Elementary School rose to the top.**



Location

For nearly 100 years a school has been located at this site in the heart of the community. Decades ago, the land was deeded to the district with the trust it would continue to provide a school in the city that would serve as its educational soul and a community beacon.

Capacity

Currently more than 300 students attend Black Diamond Elementary, 40 percent of whom are housed in portables outside the building's 10 classrooms. When constructed, the new building would house closer to the district standard of 450 students, together under one roof in a uniform, up-to-date and safe learning environment.

Comprehensive School Mitigation Agreement

The current Black Diamond Elementary bond project is separate from the future schools planned to serve students from the Yarrow Bay developments.

An agreement between the School District, City of Black Diamond and Yarrow Bay sets aside suitable land within the development for future schools. This component assures future school sites as land becomes more scarce. The district will not pay for these sites, instead, the developer will receive mitigation fee credits as consideration.

Mitigation fees collected from the developer above the cost of this land will be applied to school construction costs. Mitigation fees are imposed to help reduce the economic burden of providing infrastructure needed to serve increased growth; in this case the school district and educating an influx of students from the development. For more information about the agreement visit our school district website.

Future Schools Funded Through a Combination of Sources

When the time to build new schools due to development arrives several years down the road, the District will be ready. A combination of mitigation fees, state match and tax revenue will build future schools in Black Diamond.

- **State match** construction money is awarded to districts that show a greater need to house students. These funds are determined by the state based on criteria at the time.
- **Mitigation fees** collected above the price of land at the time of conveyance are applied to construction costs.
- **Voter approved bonds** are always part of the scenario for school districts across our state, but keeping taxes at their lowest point is vital to the community.

More Information

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