How OCPS Builds Schools

Since 2003, Orange County Public Schools has sited, built and opened **50 new schools to accommodate growth and relieve overcrowding**. Through the 2018-19 school year, an additional 118 existing schools have been replaced or renovated.

When a new school is built, **the planning begins many years in advance**.

Here are the key steps:

1. The Office of Student Enrollment and Advance Planning committee analyze birth rates, growth and development to project enrollment.
2. The Advance Planning committee (including OCPS county and city staff) considers the location and capacity of existing schools to determine future needs.
3. School locations are targeted and projects defined (school type, size, etc.).
4. Projects are prioritized based on competing needs districtwide.
5. **Limited fiscal resources**, including taxpayer dollars and fees from developers, are allocated to purchase land, hire an architect and construct and furnish new schools.
6. New schools open on time and within budget.

- No cutoff rate or formula by itself determines when a school will be relieved. (Please see list at left).
- New schools are scheduled to open when enrollment is sufficient to support an additional school. Schools needing relief may be temporarily overcrowded while new schools are designed and built.
- Some schools relieve multiple schools. Others relieve one. This depends on the location of current schools and where the growth is.
- **The Advance Planning committee meets year-round** to consider changes to growth and adjust plans accordingly. These plans are laid out in a **10-year Capital Improvement Plan**, which is updated annually.