

ELK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

History

Elk Grove Union High School was the first union high school in the State of California. The high school opened its doors in 1893 at its first site on Main Street (now Derr Street and Elk Grove Boulevard in Old Town). In 1922, a new brick building was constructed where the Joseph Kerr campus is today. In 1964, the school moved to its present site and opened its doors as a three-year senior high school (grades 10-12); the junior high grades (7-9) remained at the current Joseph Kerr campus. Elk Grove is the second oldest high school in Sacramento County and until 1977, was the only comprehensive high school in the district.

The existing campus is located on the southwest corner of Valley Oak and Elk Grove-Florin road and consists of approximately 43 acres. The campus officially opened in 1964 and was last modernized in 1999. The 94 campus classrooms are housed in 23 permanent buildings and 37 relocatable buildings, 35 of which are over 20 years in age.

Modernization goals

The primary objective of the modernization of the EGHS campus is to improve the campus so that the facilities are more consistent with newer high school campuses in the District. Those objectives include, among other things, improving the learning environments to support current and future technological needs; creating spaces that engage, foster creativity and enhance learning; as well as improve safety and accessibility to the facilities. At EGHS, however, the age, construction type, number of relocatable buildings as well as placement of the facilities pose significant challenges to modernizing the campus. After careful study it became evident that replacing rather than renovating many of the existing facilities was the most practical and feasible way to modernize the campus.

When complete, the “front door” of the EGHS campus will face the west parking lot (off Valley Oak Lane) and a new two-story thirty classroom building will be located at the northeast corner. There will be three additional new buildings: a new administration/classroom building facing the west parking lot and two career technical facilities: Culinary and Agriculture/Natural Resources. The culinary facility will be on the east side of the campus facing Elk Grove-Florin Road and the agriculture facility will be on the western side of campus. To accompany the new buildings there will be new outdoor learning and gathering spaces, parking lot improvements, new plantings and perimeter fencing.

Modernization of the campus is expected to take approximately five years and will be accomplished in approximately six increments.

- Culinary Building
- Utility improvements
- 30 Classroom Building

- New Administration/classroom Building
- West Parking Lot improvements
- Agriculture Building
- Quad and landscape improvements

A description of the first three increments which are either currently or close to starting construction are described below. The remaining increments are still in design development and are expected to be in construction in 2023.

Career Technical Education Facility – Culinary Pathway

The new Culinary Arts Building, funded by a State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grant and Measure M will be the first phase of the modernization of the campus and is currently under construction. This 5,700 square-foot building will support the expanding culinary program currently housed in a laboratory classroom in one of original buildings constructed in the 1960's. The new building consists of two cooking classrooms, a demonstration room, conference room, along with walk-in dry storage, refrigerator and freezer facilities. This facility will also be approved by the health department so it can support catering and/or food sales to the campus or the community.

This building will be located at the south end of the campus frontage along Elk Grove-Florin Road, adjacent to the science building. While it is a small building, the nature of infill projects resulted in the closure of the Elk Grove-Florin Road access to the site. Modernization of the campus will progress in a counter-clockwise fashion around the campus with the culinary building being the starting point.

Utility Improvements

Following the Culinary Arts Building is the first increment of the larger EGHS campus modernization project consisting of upgrades to existing utilities and the building pad preparation for the future two-story classroom. The site utility work will circumnavigate the entire campus as well as create a utility corridor directly through the campus. The new utilities will support the new buildings, enhance and upgrade existing utilities and also replace failing utilities. These utilities will include new electrical service, fire and domestic water, storm drain and sewer upgrades and are intended to support the campus for many decades into the future.

The scope of work for this increment results in the most visible change to the campus frontage as the demolition of the east parking lot and removal of trees clears the way for a new two-story classroom building. As classroom spaces are brought up to current learning and building standards, the 1960s infrastructure to support those learning spaces needs to follow. Admittedly it is alarming to see long standing trees cut down but more than 50 years of tree root growth has plagued storm drain and sewer lines along the Valley Oak Lane and Elk Grove-Florin Road property frontages.

Classroom Building (Building K)

Following installation of new utilities, the next increment of the EGHS campus modernization will quite literally become the “cornerstone” of the modernization project. The new two-story building will occupy the corner of Elk Grove-Florin Road and Valley Oak Lane and will house thirty classrooms, department offices and restrooms. Each new District standard-sized classroom will have state-of-art technology and natural light which is a stark contrast to the original 1960’s campus with tightly clustered classrooms enclosed by interior corridors, minimal access to natural light and configurations too rigid for expansion or modernization.

A two-story building is the solution to the challenge to provide as many classrooms as possible in a limited space on an existing site. Siting of the building along the east frontage allows the site to remain fully operational without impacting any of the existing learning spaces. The construction of the building at the fringe of the main campus provides an additional benefit by eliminating the need for any temporary student housing. Upon completion, occupants of the existing relocatable classrooms will be able to relocate to the new building and demolition of the relocatable facilities can occur to make way for subsequent phases of the modernization.

Access entry points to the campus will change, but students and parents will be still be able to access the Administration from the Elk-Grove Florin Road side of campus. Minor modifications to the main rear parking lot will be made in the near future to accommodate additional staff parking, but a reconfiguration of the parking lot will occur in subsequent years. The District recognizes traffic patterns will change with the elimination of the Elk Grove-Florin Road access, and is working to minimize the impacts to the surrounding community.