



NCS D Create the Future Frequently Asked Questions

What is Create the Future?

The Natrona County School District is in a long-term process of redesigning secondary level education in our community. This project has included years of research and planning around best practices in education and the global and local business needs of the future. The work will culminate in remodels of Kelly Walsh and Natrona County high schools, as well as construction of a new high school campus housing the Center for Advanced and Professional Studies (CAPS), Roosevelt High School and Transitions Learning Center. All three campuses will be designed and constructed to create future schools that serve the needs of 21st Century learners, engage students in rigorous and relevant learning opportunities, and support a community of young people who will be leaders in their generation.

Why are construction projects being planned at KWHS and NCHS?

NCS D intends to create environments that provide a fundamentally different learning experience for 21st Century middle and high school students. Almost one in four students drops out of high school. Our 21st Century students are attending schools that are built for a 19th Century world. We envision a school system that engages students, inspires them to be champions and prepares them to succeed in their local and global communities. Physical modifications of our existing buildings are absolutely necessary to make that educational vision a reality.

Will school remain in session during construction?

Yes. Kelly Walsh and Natrona County high schools will remain open throughout the planning, design and construction of their remodel projects. Design of the remodels will include a phased approach that allows students to continue learning in safe and positive environments.

Who is doing this work?

The Wyoming School Facilities Commission, in cooperation with the Natrona County School District, used a qualifications-based selection process to choose architects for the three campus projects, as well as construction managers at risk for the two remodels. The selected firms are:

Bassetti Architects, Inc., in partnership with Amundsen Associates — NCHS design
A&P Construction — NCHS construction management
RB+B Architects, Inc., in partnership with Amundsen Associates — KWHS design
Sampson Construction — KWHS construction management
The Cuningham Group, in partnership with MOA Architects — new campus design

A construction team will be selected for the new high school campus at the conclusion of the planning and design process. Both design and construction phases will involve significant work for local subcontractors and companies.

How much will these projects cost?

A budget for each project will be developed at the end of the initial planning phase. So far, however, the Wyoming Legislature has appropriated funding through the Wyoming School Facilities Commission as follows:

- \$2 million for property acquisition for school projects statewide, some of which will be used in Casper

- \$9.8 million for planning and design of the three NCSD high school projects

- \$14.4 million for the initial phase of construction at KWHS and NCHS

- \$85 million for the balance of construction at the three Casper high school projects

Where does the money come from?

Wyoming is unique in its approach to school and school construction funding. Due to a Wyoming Supreme Court decision, all school facilities are the responsibility of the state. Most funding for school operations, as well as for school construction, comes from the state's mineral royalties, and those primarily come from the coal industry. Little, if any, money for school construction is generated by local property taxes.

How many students will each of the high schools accommodate?

The three schools will accommodate 3,600 students in total. Some students from KWHS and NCHS will attend classes part-time on the new campus. KWHS and NCHS each are being designed to serve 1,450 students, and the new campus is being designed for 700 students.

How do I get involved in the planning of the new schools?

The design process will kick off with community input sessions from 4 to 5:30 and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. May 3 at Summit Elementary School. All community members are invited to come share their ideas.

The architects for the three projects will use a charette process to develop preliminary plans for the facilities, in terms of the kinds of facilities needed in relation to academic and extracurricular programs at each site. Each site will have a charette team of about 50 members, who will work in their own groups, as well as in a group with other school teams, to produce preliminary plans for the schools.

The teams will meet May 3-5 and May 23-25, with times and locations to be determined. Participation in all six days is strongly encouraged for team members. Community members who are interested in serving on the teams can e-mail their name, phone number, e-mail address and school interest to Community_Partnerships@natronaschools.org or leave the same information in a message at (307) 253-5370. You will be contacted with more information as details become available.