



Fact Sheet

Northeastern Wake High Schools

H6 High School was initially set to open in Fall 2010 to relieve projected overcrowding at Wakefield, Millbrook and Wake Forest-Rolesville high schools. In April 2009, the Board voted to delay the opening until Fall 2012, in order to adjust the sale of the bonds approved to build the school. On December 1, 2010, a new Board voted to abandon the current site for H6 altogether, and this may delay the opening of the high school until 2014 or 2015.

Wakefield High School has a 2009-10 enrollment of 3,077 students and is the largest high school in Wake County. The entire 9th grade, 850 students, is located in an off-campus 9th grade center, located in a converted former Winn-Dixie grocery store and offers limited electives.

- Wakefield utilizes 39 temporary classrooms, including some that are almost 10 years old and have malfunctioning air conditioners and in-classroom mildew issues. The trailers sit on what had been a soccer field and have compromised outdoor space for the school.
- The demands for Advanced Placement classes are so high they do not have enough qualified teachers to open enough sections so that all students can confidently register.
- The band teacher instructs classes with more than 100 kids in each section and no assistant.
- High-density housing, including a new 500-home project, continue to be built in and around Wakefield
- Students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program: 22.1 percent

Wake Forest-Rolesville High School students will return to the school's renovated premises this fall. The renovations increase capacity from 1,940 to 2,200 students.

- There is limited room for temporary classrooms, and parking continues to be an issue as the school is landlocked by residential and other development.
- Residential development in Wake Forest has slowed this past year but is poised to be in a strong growth phase for some time to come.
- Currently 9th graders are housed in off campus 9th grade center and will continue to remain there until H6 (renamed Rolesville High School) is completed in 2014 or 2015.
- Students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program: 21 percent

Heritage High School will open this fall with 9th and 10th graders.

- Heritage is a small footprint high school with a maximum capacity of 1,500 students and limited outdoor space for temporary classrooms due to a ravine on the property.
- Heritage is scheduled to open with about 1,000 students.

May 6, 2010



Fact Sheet

Millbrook will open in Fall 2010 in its first year as an International Baccalaureate magnet school.

- It has a capacity of 2,492 students, with 18 temporary classrooms, and was at 98 percent capacity in 2009-10.
- Base students were reassigned from Millbrook in order to provide magnet seats at the school.
- If overcrowding continues as H6 is delayed, the Board may need to reassign base students back to Millbrook, and the school may lose magnet seats.
- Students in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program: 34 percent.

The H6 High School is needed to relieve overcrowding in Northeastern Wake County High Schools.

By abandoning the Forest Ridge site and considering alternate sites recommended by the Rolesville Mayor, the Board's decisions will cost taxpayers money and disrupt students during their high school years.

- More than 1,500 students will have no stability for four years of their high school careers.
- Many of these students will be taught for the bulk of their high school years in temporary classrooms.
- Crowding at area high schools will continue.
- Magnet seats at Millbrook will likely be reduced for four years in order to relieve overcrowding from Wakefield and Wake Forest.
- WCPSS had wanted to use either the 9th grade centers at WFR or WHS to house elementary school kids while another elementary school was constructed on the Forest Ridge Site. This plan is derailed and 850-900 kids remain displaced as a result of the delay.
- H6 experienced cost overruns due to unexpected additional costs of \$7 million for roads imposed by local municipalities near the original site. Panther Creek had a similar cost overrun by \$4.5 million, also due to road requirements.
- High School capacity is being built east of Capital Boulevard/U.S. 1, while significant growth is occurring in Wakefield and west of Capital Boulevard/U.S. 1. However, land is not as readily available west of the highway. Wakefield overcrowding has strained the school for many years and will continue if H6 is further delayed.
- If H6 is built in Rolesville, students from Wakefield area and Wake Forest will have longer bus rides to a community where they have no connection.
- An estimated \$15 million will be unnecessarily spent on temporary classrooms needed to house students because of the further delays in constructing H6.
- On top of other costs, approximately \$3.7 million in architectural fees and other sunk costs will not be recovered from the costs of developing the now-cancelled H6 site.

May 6, 2010