



York Township Elementary Building Project

Driveway FAQ

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What is the purpose of the upcoming construction project?

The purpose of the York Township Elementary Driveway project is to enhance the safety and traffic constraints on our campus and lessen the financial costs of future renovations to York Township Elementary. Currently, York Township Elementary is the only elementary school in the district with only one access road on/off the campus. A secondary access point is essential for the safety of our students and staff.

What are the main components of the project?

The main component of the project is the addition of a second access driveway connecting Merrin Road to the parking lot on the South side of the building. This will improve access and egress during emergencies and enhance the drop-off and pick-up process for parents and guardians as there is currently only one entrance/exit on campus.

How was this driveway option selected?

The district explored various other options to address a second access point to the campus, including Crestlyn Drive, Leaders Heights Road, and S. Queen Street (cost estimate of approximately \$1.5M). Many of these options would have created implications with York Township, PennDOT, potential eminent domain implications, and/or inflationary costs and some were not feasible from a construction perspective. Ultimately, Merrin Road was the most fiscally reasonable option to achieve the goal of a second entrance.

How will the York Township Elementary driveway project be funded?

The project is estimated to cost approximately \$153,087.96 and will be funded through the District's Capital Reserve Fund. Additional costs for the playground relocation and other miscellaneous costs will be funded through the general operating budget. This fund requires no additional taxpayer dollars as the funds are already allocated for Capital Reserve Projects.

When will the construction begin?

Construction is tentatively scheduled to commence at the beginning of August 2024 and last approximately one month in duration.

How will the new driveway enhance safety?

The new driveway provides a secondary access to the campus. It will provide an additional route for emergency vehicles to access and/or exit the campus, ensuring quicker response times during emergencies. It primarily will also help to streamline the traffic flow during peak hours, reducing congestion and improving overall safety for students, staff, and visitors. This secondary entrance will be critical in separating car riders from bus/van riders, also improving student safety and improving traffic flow on campus.

What changes will occur during the driveway construction period?

- **Playground Relocation:** The YTE playground will be relocated, which will limit student and community use during the construction period. Playground relocation will occur in two phases. Recess activities will be adjusted to ensure they remain enjoyable and engaging.
- **Soccer Fields:** Evening and weekend use of the campus soccer fields will be restricted.

- **Bus and Parent Pick-up/Drop-off:** Bus pick-up and drop-off, as well as parent pick-up procedures, will remain unchanged until the completion of the project.

How will recess and other student activities be affected?

While the playground is being relocated, YTE administration and teachers are committed to ensuring that recess remains enjoyable and engaging for all students. Alternative activities and spaces will be provided to maintain a positive recess experience.

Will the project affect the use of the soccer fields?

Yes, the use of the campus soccer fields in the evenings and weekends will be restricted during the construction period. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time.

How will traffic flow change after the project's completion?

- **Bus Riders:** Bus traffic flow will remain unchanged. Students will be dropped off/picked up at the back of the building at Door 8.
- **Van Riders:** Students will be dropped off/[picked up in front of the building at Door 3.
- **Car Riders:** Parents/guardians will utilize the new driveway which will facilitate a one-way traffic flow into the YTE campus with drop off/pick up at Door 4. Guardians will enter, drop off at school, and then exit onto S. Queen Street. This setup is designed to streamline traffic and improve the overall safety and efficiency of our arrival and departure procedures at York Township Elementary.
- **Traffic Flow:** Please reference [this map](#) for detailed information on the traffic flow following the completion of this project.

What is the expected positive impact of this project on our school community?

The project is expected to significantly enhance the safety of our campus by adding a second driveway on campus, making it easier for emergency vehicles to access or exit and improving the overall traffic flow. These improvements will benefit students, parents, staff, and visitors, contributing to a safer and more efficient school environment by creating separate drop off/pick up locations for bus riders, van riders, and car riders.

What is the impact on Merrin Road residents?

The District goal is to minimize the impact to Merrin Road residents. Access from Merrin Road will only be available during the morning drop off and afternoon pickup times, as a one-way entrance for student car riders. [Merrin Road Post-Construction Map](#)

- The project will also include an access gate to eliminate cut-through traffic from Merrin Road to S. Queen St. This gate will help manage and control the flow of vehicles, reducing potential disturbances to residents.
- The gate will only be open during arrival and departure times (7:50 AM and 3:00 PM, or 10:50 AM on half days). These hours are intended to balance accessibility and security effectively.

- Every effort will be made to ensure the car rider line occurs during the designated hours only, with minimal back-up onto Merrin Road.
- A vehicle turnaround will be incorporated on school grounds. This turnaround will allow cars to turn around on school property in the event the gate is closed, eliminating the utilization of Merrin Road residents' driveways.
- A snow easement will be incorporated on school grounds for snow to be pushed on school property.

What does the future use of the new driveway look like?

As stated above, the District's goal is to minimize the impact on Merrin Road Residents. However, the District does retain the right to alter its use of the new driveway. We will continue to monitor traffic/parking flow on the York Township Elementary campus. The District will work closely with the School Resource Officer and the Local Police Department to ensure the safety and well-being of our school community and residents surrounding the utilization of the new driveway.

Are there future building project plans slated for York Township Elementary?

Yes, building YTE renovations and expansion are tentatively scheduled to begin in 2026, pending Board approval. Although renovations and expansions at YTE will occur, the student population will not increase. The project is designed to better meet the needs of our staff and students and align with the K-3 standard which focuses on safety and security, improved educational delivery methods, future-ready buildings, equitable educational environments, and more. [[K-3 Building Project Site](#)]

Where can I find more information or ask questions about the project?

For more information or to address any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kevin Molin, Principal of YTE, at kevin.molin@dallastown.net or by telephone at 717-741-2281 or by visiting the [K-3 Building Project Site](#).