



BUILDING THE FUTURE

What's at Stake

As the disruption of the pandemic continues to ripple through communities, more children and youth than ever are experiencing significant challenges that threaten to disrupt their lives for years ahead. People's mental health and overall wellbeing are at risk and children with special needs are falling further behind. Like no other time, 2020 has exposed the importance of human services organizations like Perkins and the value of investing in the mental health, developmental, and educational needs of children, youth, and adults with special needs.



The Doctor Franklin Perkins School Difference

Doctor Franklin Perkins School, providing both day and residential education, helps children with a variety of complex needs to lead capable, connected, and healthy lives. We provide each and every student with small class sizes, structure, services like occupational therapy and therapeutic horsemanship, and a clinician who works with them throughout their time to personalize therapy and supports. The high-quality, individualized services that students receive at Perkins –both during the school day and in the student residences- transform lives in a way that cannot be accomplished in traditional school settings.

Planning for the Future

Perkins' Lancaster campus is a serene and therapeutic environment that is conducive to supporting people in-need across a continuum of care. We've created a three-phase plan that will maintain the character of our current campus, while building towards the needs of our current and future students and adults. The full project will modernize, enhance, and connect our campus to best serve people today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Phase one will focus on building a new middle school and student residence, upgrading and enhancing our current buildings, and creating spaces that stimulate and engage students with complex needs in a way that prepares them for academic accomplishment and lifelong future success. The improvements outlined herein underscore our commitment to personalized instruction and therapies that build on each individual's unique strengths.

Phase one of the project is expected to occur fall 2020 through fall 2021, with phases two and three to follow, building upon these enhancements to include upgrading the elementary school, relocating and modernizing our Behavioral Health Group Practice, upgrading our current residences, and building an additional residence.

When complete, the improvements will streamline and improve our spaces – from academic, to administrative, to residential, to parking – with the ultimate goal of maximizing success for everyone served by Perkins.

BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

PHASE 1

Perkins Middle School

The flagship element of this first phase is the construction of a new middle school on our 100-acre main campus in Lancaster. This new academic building to house Grades 6-8 directly promotes our mission of setting students with complex mental health and learning challenges up for a successful future. The project centralizes staff and optimizes learning time with spaces that are ideally suited to our students. The single-level and handicapped-accessible school will feature:



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Seven Classrooms

The new middle school classrooms will offer effective, efficient, and technologically advanced resources. At 574 sq. ft., the classrooms will be substantially larger than the existing middle school rooms they will replace. This is important for Perkins students, many of whom are easily dysregulated. Instead of leaving the classroom, the new classrooms will provide space for students who need to stand and/or move about to maintain focus.



Occupational Therapy (OT) Room

Most of our students receive OT and we are excited to have a conducive space for this important component of their learning experience. Our new OT room will feature sweeping ceilings and an abundance of natural sunlight. Generous space for movement and therapeutic activities that challenge gravity and help develop and improve a range of skills needed for classroom learning and daily living.



Multipurpose Room

An 885 sq. ft. multipurpose room will serve as “Maker Space” and STEM lab for students, and can also flex to conference room space – a true collaborative work space for hands-on learning.



Collaborative Meeting Space

To centralize administrative space, the new middle school will contain 23 offices for speech and language therapy, student services, clinician offices, and other administrative space. Historically, these staff have been scattered in different locations around campus, making accessing them challenging at times. Central to our role as a special education provider is hosting meetings that bring together a child’s full support team – the parents, student, educators, clinicians, and related services providers working together. The new school will feature two such meeting areas designed to host both large and small groups.



Four Sensory Areas

For students who have experienced trauma, Sensory Areas are highly effective spaces for self-regulation, relaxation, and sensory management, which results in less time out of the classroom.

Janeway Addition

A 3,182 sq. ft. wing will be added to the north side of the Janeway building, mirroring the existing architecture of the library and preserving the character of the high school building. The addition will allow us to cluster our art and music classrooms adjacent to the auditorium and make room for a designated science lab within the existing education wing. This new addition also features a separate, handicapped-accessible entrance to the building, as well as a spacious lobby, allowing easy public access and functionality for community events in the auditorium or dining hall. Additional parking spaces will be created through lot reconfigurations. Through a series of sidewalks, all of the academic buildings will seamlessly connect, creating a defined academic zone of campus.

New Student Residence

Featuring a gabled entrance and nestled into the quiet end of the main campus, the new home is to include a large central kitchen and dining area, outdoor terrace, solution room, and two separate common areas/living rooms. A clinician’s office and program director’s office will be located just inside the entrance, thoughtfully keeping the volume of visitor traffic low through living areas and maintaining residents’ privacy.

PHASE 2

- Modernize the existing elementary school building
- Relocate Perkins’ Behavioral Health Group Practice to a renovated, modernized, and welcoming Memorial Building
- Add convenient and ample parking

PHASE 3

- Renovate The Manor to accommodate key administrative functions currently off-campus
- Create a bright and modern home for residents through renovations at an existing residence or by adding a new residence

PHASE 4

- Create a new maintenance space/building
- Renovate the former Behavioral Health Group Practice to create a new campus residence