

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Everett School District starts search for future school sites**

In February 2006 district voters approved a capital bond to build new schools, make major school renovations and buy land to build future schools.

"Over the next two decades, population forecasts by the Washington state Office of Financial Management (OFM) projects population increases for this region of between 15 and 20 percent," said Everett School District's Facilities and Planning Director Mike Gunn. "That translates into a need for three new elementary schools and more middle and high school classrooms over the next 20 years. Clearly, we will need more classroom space for students living and learning in this district."

In January, the Everett School District will be moving ahead with a land search process to honor its promise to voters.

"Previous district leaders had the foresight to buy land for the future," said Superintendent Carol Whitehead. "Their planning made it possible for us to build H.M. Jackson High School, Gateway Middle School, Penny Creek Elementary and Forest View Elementary on land purchased years ago. It is important that we make similar provisions for schools for tomorrow's students by securing land today for their schools."