



Business & Support Services
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Andrea Castañeda, Superintendent

November 13, 2025

Lisa Anderson-Oglivie, Planner
 Planning Division, City of Salem
 555 Liberty Street SE, Room 305
 Salem OR 97301

RE: Land Use Activity Case No. ANXC-762, 4952 Center St NE

The City of Salem issued a Request for Comments for a Land Use Case as referenced above. Please find below comments on the impact of the proposed land use change on the Salem-Keizer School District.

IDENTIFICATION OF SCHOOLS SERVING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY

The School District has established geographical school attendance areas for each school known as school boundaries. Students residing in any residence within that boundary are assigned to the school identified to serve that area. There are three school levels, elementary school serving kindergarten thru fifth grade, middle school serving sixth thru eighth grade, and high school serving ninth thru twelfth grade. . The schools identified to serve the subject property are:

School Name	School Type	Grades Served
Auburn	Elementary	K thru 5
Houck	Middle	6 thru 8
North Salem	High	9 thru 12

Table 1

SCHOOL CAPACITY & CURRENT ENROLLMENT

The School District has established school capacities which are the number of students that a particular school is designed to serve. Capacities can change based on class size. School capacities are established by taking into account core infrastructure (gymnasium, cafeteria, library, etc.) counting the number of classrooms and multiplying by the number of students that each classroom will serve. A more detailed explanation of school capacity can be found in the School District's adopted Facility Plan.

School Name	School Type	School Enrollment	School Design Capacity	Enroll./Capacity Ratio
Auburn	Elementary	534	678	79%
Houck	Middle	806	1,071	75%
North Salem	High	1,910	2,248	85%

Table 2

POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL STUDENTS IN BOUNDARY AREA RESULTING FROM APPROVAL OF LAND USE CASE

The School District anticipates the number of students that may reside at the proposed development based on the housing type, single family (SF), duplex/triplex/four-plex (DU), multi-family (MF) and mobile home park (MHP). The School District commissioned a study by the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments in 2021 to determine an estimate of students per residence, for the Salem-Keizer area, in each of the four housing types. Since the results are averages, the actual number of students in any given housing type will vary. The table below represents the resulting estimates for the subject property:

School Type	Qty. of New Residences	Housing Type	Average Qty. of Students per Residence	Total New Students
Elementary	10	SF	0.168	2
Middle			0.098	1
High			0.144	1

Table 3

POTENTIAL EFFECT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT ON SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

To determine the impact of the new residential development on school enrollment, the School District compares the school capacity to the current enrollment plus estimates of potential additional students resulting from land use cases over the previous two calendar years. A ratio of the existing and new students is then compared with the school design capacity and expressed as a percentage to show how much of the school capacity may be used.

School Name	School Type	School Enrollment	New Students During Past 2 yrs	New Student from this Case	Total New Students	School Design Cap.	Enroll./Cap. Ratio
Auburn	Elem.	534	22	2	24	678	82%
Houck	Mid.	806	22	1	23	1,071	77%
North Salem	High	1,910	96	1	97	2,248	89%

Table 4

ESTIMATE OF THE EFFECT ON INFRASTRUCTURE – IDENTIFICATION OF WALK ZONES AND SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Civic infrastructure needed to provide connectivity between the new residential development and the schools serving the new development will generally require roads, sidewalks and bicycle lanes. When developing within one mile of school(s), adequate pathways to the school should be provided that would have raised sidewalks. If there are a large number of students walking, the sidewalks should be wider to accommodate the number of students that would be traveling the

path at the same time. Bike lanes should be included, crosswalks with flashing lights and signs where appropriate, traffic signals to allow for safe crossings at busy intersections, and any easements that would allow students to travel through neighborhoods. If the development is farther than one mile away from any school, provide bus pullouts and a covered shelter (like those provided by the transit district). Locate in collaboration with the District at a reasonable distance away from an intersection for buses if the distance is greater than ½ mile from the main road. If the distance is less than a ½ mile then raised sidewalks should be provided with stop signs where students would cross intersections within the development as access to the bus stop on the main road. Following is an identification, for the new development location, that the development is either located in a school walk zone or is eligible for school transportation services.

School Name	School Type	Walk Zone or Eligible for School Transportation
Auburn	Elementary	Walk Zone
Houck	Middle	Eligible for School Transportation
North Salem	High	Eligible for School Transportation

Table 5

ESTIMATE OF NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NEEDED TO SERVE DEVELOPMENT

The School District estimates the cost of constructing new school facilities to serve our community. The costs of new school construction is estimated using the Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) North America Quarterly Construction Cost Report and building area per student from Cornerstone Management Group, Inc. estimates. The costs to construct school facilities to serve the proposed development are in the following table.

School Type	Number of Students	Estimate of Facility Cost Per Student*	Total Cost of Facilities for Proposed Development*
Elementary	2	\$105,625	\$211,250
Middle	1	\$137,443	\$137,443
High	1	\$169,260	\$169,260
TOTAL			\$517,953

Table 6

*Estimates based on average of Indicative Construction Costs from “RLB Construction Cost Report North America Q2 2025”

Assume density of 5 dwelling units per acre.

Sincerely,

David Fridenmaker
Business and Support Services

c: Paul Odenthal, Chief Operations Officer, David Hughes, Director of Operations & Logistics, T.J. Crockett, Director of Transportation