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5. In coordination with the Department of Education and Early Learning and in partnership with the Seattle School District No. 1, OPCD will develop planning strategies that support the District’s public school facility needs for anticipated student population consistent with adopted comprehensive plan policies and growth forecasts.

And adds the following recital:

WHEREAS, a 2015 amendment to the Countywide Planning Policies approved by the Growth Management Planning Council of King County requires coordination between local land use plans and school districts; and

Background

A healthy future for the city requires a strong public education system. With recent student enrollment growth and potential mandates for smaller class sizes, the City has heard concerns about school capacity in certain neighborhoods. The Seattle Preschool Program’s plan to expand to 100 classrooms over the next four years could also be impacted by District space issues as some current preschool providers, including the School District, use classrooms in elementary schools.

As the District expands the number of school buildings and classrooms, opportunities exist for the City and the District to create new strategies to facilitate school construction. Current processes and development standards can delay or add cost to District projects.

Furthermore, joint planning between local municipalities and school districts is now required by Countywide Planning Policies. Earlier this year, the Growth Management Planning Council of King County approved an [amendment](#) to the planning policies that states, “Public school facilities to meet the needs of growing communities are an essential part of the public infrastructure. Coordination between each jurisdiction’s land use plan and regulations and their respective school district[s] facility needs are essential for public school capacity needs to be met.”

City staff from multiple departments (Parks, Neighborhoods, Education and Early Learning, Planning and Development) are currently engaging in conversations with District staff about these issues. The Office of Planning and Community Development is a natural fit to lead this effort.