

**Beaufort County School District
River Ridge Academy Expansion
Addendum to Annexation Narrative**

This Addendum to Annexation Narrative provides additional information to the Town of Bluffton about the proposed early childhood center facility to be constructed in connection with expansion of the River Ridge Academy campus. Since the original annexation package was submitted to the Town of Bluffton, engineering analysis has indicated that another portion of the existing River Ridge campus property may be a better location for construction of the early childhood center. The early childhood center will be constructed on either (1) the Property to be annexed into the Town of Bluffton; or (2) a River Ridge campus athletic field owned by Beaufort County School District and currently within the Town of Bluffton. If the early childhood center is constructed on the existing athletic field, the athletic field will be relocated to the Property being annexed into the Town of Bluffton. The Property proposed for annexation will be a part of the River Ridge campus in some capacity.

13. When the early childhood center was approved.

The new early childhood center for Bluffton was a project approved by a public vote in the November 2023 Bond Referendum.

14. How the early childhood center is supported by the District's plans, policies, goals.

The need for a new early childhood center in Bluffton was reviewed by a Community Project Review Committee (CPRC 2.0) in Spring of 2023 and was included as one of the projects when the committee met with Dr. Rodriguez. This need has been outlined in Beaufort County School District's Facilities Master Plan published annually.

15. The programs the early childhood center will provide.

The early childhood center will be a multi-use building providing early childhood screenings and community-based early intervention services for the Bluffton community. The building will house staff that provide those services who are currently in a mobile unit on the Bluffton schools campus. It will also allow for expansion of pre-kindergarten services in the community for students who are not able to be served because of current inadequate space at the existing elementary schools.

16. Maximum attendance.

While still in design Beaufort County School District's goal is to serve no more than 300 students at the new early childhood center. However, due to the nature of the services provided those students may not all be in attendance at the same time.

17. Budgeting and funding such as if it was part of the Bond Referendum and estimated cost.

As noted above, funding for the early childhood center will be provided through the 2023 Bond Referendum. Beaufort County School District is very early in the design process, and final cost has not been determined.

18. School Board approvals for the project.

As described above, the early childhood center was approved by a CPRC in spring of 2023 and overwhelmingly by the voters of Beaufort County in November 2023. The School Board approved annexation of the Property into the Town of Bluffton at its February 18, 2025 meeting.