

SCHOOL: COLUMBIA
RECOMMENDATION: Close

SECTION 1: SCHOOL PROFILE

A. Educational Profile

Grades: K-5 (Orca alternative school)

Programs:

- **Kindergarten:** Full day and half day kindergarten (no fee)
- **Advanced Learning Program:** No
- **Special Education:** Other Specialty program (ABC – Academically and Behaviorally Challenged)
- **Transitional Bilingual Education:** No
- **Head Start:** No
- **Before/After School Program(s):** First Base @ Orca

B. Facility

- **Location:** 3528 S Ferdinand Street, 98118
- **Site size:** 3.22 acres
- **Year constructed:** 1922
- **Building type and size:** Elementary School (32,208 square feet)
- **Portables:** 3
- **Handicap accessibility:** Rated fair
- **Planning capacity:** 299 students (with portables)
- **Adjacent Park:** No
- **Child care:** No dedicated child care space on site
- **Study and survey building condition score (out of 100 possible points): 64.9**
- **Discussion:** Columbia was evaluated by Meng Analysis for the 2002 Study and Survey and was rated as poor or unsatisfactory in the following areas – ceilings, fixed equipment, electrical and plumbing systems, fire control capability and fire resistance, fire alarm system, and emergency lighting.
- **Most recent capital work:** Columbia received partial seismic upgrade in 1989, but is still below the current seismic code.
- **Planned capital work:** Columbia is scheduled for \$3.4 million of improvements under the current BTA II levy plan for work between 2005-10. Planned improvements include a new roof, some exterior renovation, mechanical system, playground, new science labs, green house, and technology upgrades.
- **Self-help projects of note:**
 - Extensive garden and greenhouse with art features and a demonstration solar panel sponsored by the District and the City of Seattle
 - Play toy on east playground
 - Renovations to west playground with new play toy, landscaping, asphalt overlay and court games
 - Exterior painting and murals
 - Climbing wall in gym

- **Comments:** This building is at the end of its design lifespan. The Seattle Public Schools design lifespan is 50 years, and Columbia is currently 83 years old. Columbia was closed in June 1989 and reopened in September 1989 to house the Orca alternative program. Based on historical average costs for elementary school construction, replacing the facility would cost an estimated \$17 to \$20 million (in 2005 dollars).

C. Enrollment/Demographics

Enrollment

Year:	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Students:	238	245	244	238	240	251

Current Student Demographics

	Number	Percent
Ethnic Group:		
White	100	41.7
Non-White	140	58.3
Asian	31	12.9
Black	79	32.9
Latino	17	7.1
Native American	13	5.4
Free and Reduced Lunch eligible	96	40.0
Bilingual served	0	0.0
Special Education served	18	7.5

SECTION 2: RECOMMENDATION AND IMPACTS

- A. Recommendation:** Close the Columbia building; relocate Orca to Whitworth and add grades 6-8; repurpose Whitworth from a K-5 elementary school to a K-8 alternative school.

B. Financial Effects

- Initial Savings: \$290,579
- On-going Savings: \$354,395 annually

C. Educational Impact

The Columbia building, which currently houses the Orca alternative K-5 program, is located in the South region. This building has a very low building rating, and in order to remain open would require significant renovation. Therefore, it is recommended that the Columbia building be closed. However, with the recommended new assignment plan, students in every region will be offered access to an alternative school in their region. Therefore, we also recommend relocating the Orca alternative program to the Whitworth Elementary school building, and expanding the program to

K-8, from the current K-5. Whitworth students would be reassigned to their neighborhood schools.

The Whitworth facility is one of the only facilities in the region that has the capacity to house a K-8 program. This is a newer facility, and it is anticipated that Orca students will benefit from that. Additionally, by expanding to a K-8, students in the region will have the opportunity to access an alternative middle school that offers a curriculum and program aligned with the existing K-5 program. While K-8 programs tend to offer a smaller variety of courses than a traditional middle school, the small size and the K-8 articulation will make this an attractive opportunity for many students.

D. Demographic and Integration Effects

Under the proposed assignment plan changes, students will be assigned to their neighborhood schools and have access to at least one regional alternative K-8 school. The Orca program is currently a K-5 alternative program that has assignment preference for students living in the Central, South, and West Seattle regions; it will expand to a K-8 and become a regional alternative K-8 for the same regions. With the closure of Columbia, the Orca program will move to the Whitworth building.

The elementary and middle school students living in the Central/South/West Seattle regions have larger proportions of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students than the population currently attending Orca. Assuming students at Orca under the new assignment plan would represent the West Seattle region, the proportion of non-white, free and reduced lunch, and bilingual students would increase at Orca. The move to the Whitworth building will have no impact on the demographics of the school.

Affected Reference Area Demographics

Region	Non-White		Free and Reduced Lunch		Bilingual	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Central/South/West Seattle	13,343	75.4	10,105	57.1	3,538	20.0

E. Facility Effects

- **Impacts to community use:** The before/after school child care services provided at Orca by First Base @ Orca will end. Additional planning is necessary to determine the before/after school programming at Whitworth.
- **Proposed site classification of the building:** Change from essential to inventoried.

Orca (Columbia)

Student data are from the October 2004 P223Y enrollment extract that is supplied to the State. This includes all students regardless of program, as long as they are counted for state funding purposes. The cross-hatch shows areas that have both assignment priority and district provided transportation, and the hatch shows areas where only district transportation is provided under the current assignment plan. Gray shaded areas are priority and transportation provided areas under a newly proposed assignment plan.

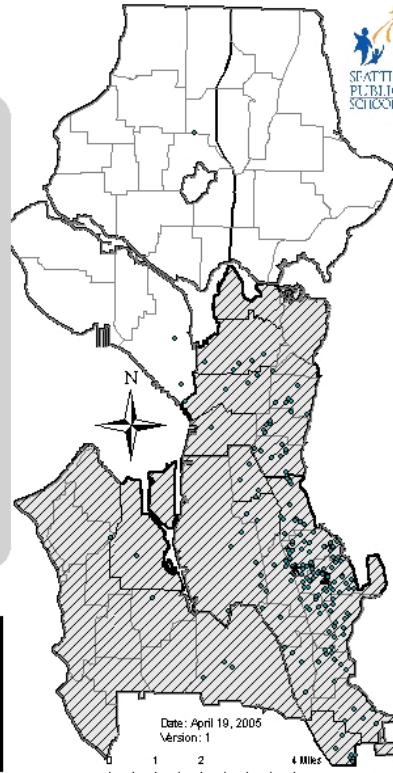
Data in the table below show the number and type of students assigned to the school/program by each of the planning areas. For example, the first column shows the number of students living in the Northwest (NW) planning area that are attending the school. The column labeled 'In New Region' is the total number of students that are currently living in the proposed draw area for the school, and the 'Out of New Region' column shows the remaining students that will be outside this draw area.

The rows at the bottom of the table show the percentages for each of the demographic characteristics, with the total percentages at the far right. These totals show the types of students that will be impacted by the boundary change. Compare the percentages in the 'Total' column with the percentages in the 'In New Region' and 'Out of new Region' columns.

Column headings: NW (Northwest), NE (Northeast), QAMag (Queen Anne/Magnolia), C (Central), S (South), WS (West Seattle), UK (Unknown and Non-Resident).

Legend

- SiteID
 ★ Columbia (Current Site)
 ⬇️ NW/WS (Proposed Site)
 • Street
- Current Clusters
 North
 Northeast
 Northwest
 Queen Anne/Mag
 Central
 South
 Southeast
 WS North
 WS South
- Planning Regions
 Northeast
 Northwest
 Queen Anne/Mag
 Central
 South
 West Seattle



Orca (K-5)	Planning Regions							Total	In New Region	Out of New Region
	NW	NE	QAMag	C	S	WS	UK			
Enroll	2	0	2	34	187	10	5	240	231	9
Free Lunch	2	0	1	9	30	4	0	46	33	3
Bilingual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW/WS Total	1	0	2	20	103	5	4	140	133	7
% Free Lunch	100.0%	0.0%	50.0%	26.5%	42.8%	40.0%	0.0%	40.0%	40.3%	33.3%
% Bilingual	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
% Non-White	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%	58.8%	57.8%	50.0%	80.0%	58.3%	57.6%	77.8%