Excelsior High School

- 4,900 square feet
- Enrollment: 79
- Age: 19 years old (installed in 1995) (Portable manufacture date is unknown, likely mid-1980’s)
- Consists of 3 portables joined together, concrete foundation, hardiplank siding, single ply membrane roof
- Programs/facilities: kitchen w/small eating area (students use cafeteria at WHS), small work areas, computer lab, small computer lab, community garden

What’s Special About Excelsior High School?

- This high school program provides an alternative route to graduation. It supports students who have challenges and barriers to being successful in school, and helps them build the skills to be a productive adult with the ability to contribute to society.
- Especially important for students who are homeless and have to work to pay their bills.
- Program has a waiting list, there are more students who would like to access the program than can currently be accommodated.
- The program has a positive impacting on the district’s overall graduation rate, with 27 graduates in 2014. EHS graduates meet the same requirements for the state of Washington as at other high school students.
- High rate of students passing the state test using COE and other mechanisms.
- EHS students benefit from strong community involvement. The Friends of Excelsior volunteer group and faith groups provide support to both the students and the school because they see the impact that the program has on students and the value it brings.
- Provides a learning environment that allows students to learn and demonstrate their mastery through different media or projects, taking their learning and applying it to art, computer programming, community service, and other real-world projects.
Challenges at EHS:

- Original capacity for 50 students, now houses 70 students.
- Safety – lacks a secure entry, interior walls are flimsily.
- Confidential conversations leak through walls, sound carries through the walls.
- Meeting space for parent and student conversations.
- Lack of ventilation in girl’s bathroom.
- School is comprised of a set of portables mashed together.
- Portables have outlived useful lifespan by a considerable time.
- Roof has leaked in the past, and can spontaneously develop leaks in computer lab and other areas.
- Lacks large gathering space like a library where all students can be in same room for school wide functions.
- Does not have a kitchen that can serve student lunches, almost all students leave campus during lunch.
- Growth in program has exceeded capacity of the building. A waiting list exists for students who want to attend but cannot, due to space limitations.
- Distractions that sometimes challenge kids outside of school time, can often be more significant for alternative students; current facility doesn’t allow students to spend a chunk of time working without interruption as they have to leave to go to WHS for other classes or lunch.
- Sense of belonging; not having a full set of facilities means students who have reasons not to be at WHS have to go there.
- Narrow hallways and lack of common space make passing time between classes very congested.
- Instructional space for science is inadequate – makes teaching advanced courses more difficult.
- Passing time to and from WHS (if using a room there to teach) is a major problem.
- Every room has an exterior exit which makes securing the property difficult.