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One school district = nearly 10,000 jobs



[Joe Ruble](#)

Heavy machinery on the site of the new Eccleston elementary in the Richmond Heights neighborhood of Orange County.



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Dr. Barbara Jenkins makes remarks at the construction site of the new Eccleston Elementary. The district's school construction program is creating nearly 10,000 jobs.



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A school that opened some 50 years ago, is being replaced in the fall. A new school is being built next door as part of the ambitious construction program of Orange County Public Schools.

By [Joe Ruble](#)

ORLANDO, Fla. — School construction in Orange County is benefitting almost ten thousand people by giving them employment.

"The construction for Orange County Public Schools is creating more than 97 hundred jobs, work for more than 97 hundred individuals," said Superintendent Dr. Barbara Jenkins.

She spoke Tuesday at the site of the new Eccleston Elementary in the Richmond Heights neighborhood. The "A" rated school first opened 58 years ago. Before that, she said it was the site of a neighborhood hospital. The new school, complete with high tech learning tools, opens in the fall.

"Look at this building!" beamed school board member Kat Gordon, in whose district it's being built.

She said the number of jobs created in the community "is just staggering."

OCPS is also replacing Oak Ridge High School and Rock Springs Elementary School. The district is renovating Arbor Ridge K-8, Brookshire Elem., Dr. Phillips High, Lancaster Elem., Westridge Middle and Winegard and Zellwood elementaries.

Two new relief schools are under construction. One is in Ocoee and the other in Southport.

The district is coming off a year in which more than 6,500 jobs were created at six school construction sites.

At least 23% of the money spn goes to minority, women-owned or small local development firms. The district also demands apprenticeship programs for each of its construction jobs.