

## FAQS

**Q: Could we build the ELC within the new data science and translation institute?**

A: The data science and translation institute will be located on two different sites. Building the ELC within the new building planned for the current ELC site would require shutting down the ELC during construction for an extended period. Ensuring a seamless transition for families from the current facility to a new building without interruption in service is our top priority, making this option unviable. The second site at Wyman Park Parcel is expected to be a long-term construction site over the next 8-10 years, making it unsuitable for the ELC.

**Q: Could the ELC relocation and the data science and translation institute be delayed?**

A: The current ELC building, constructed in 2015, was intended as a semi-permanent modular facility with a 15-year horizon. Unexpectedly, the facility is showing signs of aging and limitations much earlier than anticipated. Recent challenges with HVAC, hot water tank, and sewer line issues prompted a reevaluation of the timeline.

Simultaneously, the university seized an opportunity to bring a new data science institute to the WSE's engineering precinct at Homewood.

Accelerating the timeline for a permanent ELC building has become imperative due to the pressing need for improved childcare facilities and to stay competitive in the rapidly evolving data science and artificial intelligence space. The goal is to begin design and construction on the new ELC this fall to ensure continuity of service.

**Q: You have mentioned that a daycare in the new data science and translation institute (or another on-campus building) is not feasible because of legal requirements for outdoor space. What are the legal requirements for outdoor space of the center?**

A: Designing and building a childcare facility involves stringent regulations, particularly regarding interior and exterior spaces. The State of Maryland mandates specific requirements for outdoor play areas, with a minimum of 75 square feet per child capacity, ensuring security. For the current ELC size, these requirements have been exceeded, but considerations extend beyond just play areas, encompassing drop-off/pick-up and parking spaces.

**Q: KSAS and WSE have both announced plans for faculty growth. What is the role of childcare in these growth plans?**

A: As faculty grows across various divisions, childcare needs will likely increase. The university considers childcare options holistically, exploring ways to meet the needs of all divisions, including potential expansion of childcare offerings. Decisions on childcare are vital for recruitment, diversity, and ensuring the needs of future parents and families are met.

**Q: Are there plans to conduct another survey of Homewood affiliates or involve other stakeholders in conversations about the future of childcare?**

A: The university is working with stakeholders to conduct comprehensive surveys on childcare and broader family needs.

**Q: When will we move to the new childcare center?**

A: Building a new ELC, including design, construction, and permits, is at least a 3-year process, even on a property already owned.

**Q: Will there be a period of time when the childcare center is non-operational?**

A: The goal is to ensure continuity of care without a break in service.

**Q: Will the new center accommodate the same numbers/ages of children?**

A: Yes, the future ELC aims to accommodate all existing families, and considerations are underway to expand childcare capacity to meet growing demand.

**Q: Will DBCC still operate the new center?**

A: Yes, Downtown Baltimore Child Care (DBCC) will continue to operate the new center. Collaboration with DBCC and ongoing communication with parents are central to a successful transition.

**Q: Will the new center have the features we love at Homewood ELC?**

A: Yes, the new center's priorities include quality outdoor space, natural light, proximity, and safety. Parents will be actively involved in the design process to ensure the new center meets their expectations.

**Q: Will we be able to provide input and feedback on the new center?**

A: Absolutely. The university encourages feedback through various channels, including email ([Childcare@jhu.edu](mailto:Childcare@jhu.edu)), the feedback form on the JHU Childcare webpage, and a planned series of meetings. The Homewood ELC Design Advisory Committee will be established for ongoing input during the design and planning process.

**Q: Will the new center be semi-permanent or housed within a permanent structure?**

A: The goal is for the new center to be a long-term, longstanding building, providing stability for families and ensuring a high-quality childcare environment.

**Q: Will my costs go up?**

A: Affordability is a priority for the new center.

**Q: Are you still planning on offering childcare vouchers and scholarships for students, faculty and staff?**

A: Yes, childcare affordability programs, including vouchers and scholarships, will continue to be available.

**Q: Could the university consider other sites in surrounding neighborhoods, such as Remington?**

A: The university did explore nearby sites for potential relocation. However, factors such as distance to campus, capacity, and timeline considerations made alternative sites less feasible. Acquisition and rezoning processes would impact continuity of childcare services.