

Rilke Schule Community FAQs Regarding Our Facility Needs

Current Facility

- When does our current building's lease expire?
 - August 2025
- Why are we looking at moving into an ASD building?
 - We cannot afford our current lease and sustain our teacher to student ratios and staffing. We have used over \$500,000 of our savings both this year and the upcoming 2025-26 school year to maintain current staffing levels. We will utilize all savings in short order at this rate.
- Will we be charged rent at an ASD building?
 - Rilke would be required to pay for maintenance and operations only, which we currently do for our leased building. This would lead to a significant reduction in expenses.
- Rent and maintenance costs?
 - Rilke pays \$738,000 in rent plus approximately \$260,000 on utilities and maintenance.
 - Lake Hood - we estimate it would be around \$350,000 for operation and maintenance costs. It is a larger building with a much larger outdoor space.

Lake Hood Facility

- ASD voted to close Lake Hood and Nunaka Valley Elementary Schools in May 2025. Why are we only looking at Lake Hood?
 - Nunaka Valley does not have the number of classrooms needed for our program. Lake Hood has sufficient classrooms with a few extra ones that could be used for interventions and specialized services for group student support.
- Space differences at the 2 schools?
 - Rilke has 39,500 sq ft, 27 classrooms, gym, small library
 - Lake Hood has 61,000 sqft, 32 classrooms, gym, library, multipurpose room
- Any potential for hot lunch?
 - There would be the potential for this to be offered as Lake Hood has a kitchen
- What about bus transportation?
 - The ASD board has discussed requesting charter schools support a bus route but further details are unknown.

Advocacy and Need

- How do we advocate?
 - ASD board meetings' in-person testimony is very effective. You can also give written testimony.
 - **Next board meetings are February 18th and March 4th at 6 pm**
 - Sign up to testify at
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeVWE-wiHua43o2AoMSntvjRU2hOo1Wb1rg1dUJaRK0sD03hQ/viewform>

- What is the plan if we do not get Lake Hood?
 - We are continuing to work with the building owner to negotiate a new lease
- Are there any other charter schools advocating to move into Lake Hood?
 - Yes. As of February 6th, Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS) requested consideration to move into Lake Hood.
 - We urge families to focus their testimony on Rilke, our needs, and benefit to the program. We request that families do not speak negatively of ANCCS or their request.
- Why are we in this financial position where a move is necessary? Were BSA increases assumed in order to keep our current facility?
 - Flat funding paired with increased costs over the past decade has put Rilke Schule in this situation. 10 years ago when the current facility was built, ASD had consistently experienced BSA (state funding) increase yearly.

Moving, Admissions, and High School Program

- How would the move work? What gets moved from our current facility?
 - ASD would assist in our move. We would need to take all of our belongings as we would no longer be a tenant. Many items will remain at Lake Hood as well.
- Will preference be given to neighborhood kids for the lottery?
 - We would continue with our current charter's requirements for lottery acceptance. Changes to it can occur in the future.
- Will high school immersion stay at Service High School?
 - Yes. They have two dedicated German teachers for immersion students
- If Rilke is a public school, why don't we have a free building?
 - As a public charter school that partners with ASD, we are responsible for finding and paying for our own facilities. ASD may choose to let Rilke use a district building, but they are not required to do so.