



Education Arthur Phillip to be rebuilt

Parramatta school goes high-rise

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The state's first public high-rise high school will be built in Parramatta to replace an ageing and overcrowded school that will be swamped with enrolments over the next two decades.

Arthur Phillip High, in Parramatta's CBD, will be rebuilt by 2019 and its neighbour, Parramatta Public School, will also be rebuilt as part of a \$100 million development announced on Thursday by the Premier, Mike Baird.

The new schools will cater for about 3000 students. But Mr Baird said the "world-leading schools" would only be built if his government was given a mandate to sell the state's electricity poles and wires.

"We have waited a long time to have the funds to ensure our schools are not just leading the nation but leading the world," Mr Baird said.

"Here at Arthur Phillip High, we will have a high school that is world leading. It will combine two campuses, Arthur Phillip and Parramatta primary, and it will provide an opportunity to cater for the growth that is coming to this region."

Mr Baird said the new schools would be "the envy of the world".

"My question to the people of NSW is pretty simple: why do we have to wait for these type of

schools?" Mr Baird said.

The Education Minister, Adrian Piccoli, said the Parramatta development would be "the biggest single investment in a school in the state's history".

"This is all about improving student results. We have a world-class teaching profession, we are investing in teacher quality and we need the facilities to allow that quality teaching to occur," Mr Piccoli said.

Mr Piccoli said students would move in to the new school at the beginning of 2019 and although there would be disruption to students, the Department of Education would work hard to ensure "minimal interruption".

"When the plans are finalised, you will see the recognition of the importance of physical activity has well and truly been catered for," Mr Piccoli said. "It's not just going to be a rectangular building."

St Andrew's Cathedral School, a private school in Sydney's CBD, is the only high-rise school in NSW.

The principal of Arthur Phillip, Lynne Goodwin, said the school desperately needed more space but was confident that students would enjoy learning in a high-rise school.



An artist's impression of the new high school in Parramatta's CBD.