

Your site location determines who can easily come to your school and what kind of access students have to surrounding community resources. It is best to locate High Tech High facilities in urban areas with access to public transportation, local businesses (for student internships), outdoor amenities, and sports or fitness facilities. Natural site features such as size, slope and orientation of the site are also key factors in a site's suitability.



High Tech High and Middle promenade

**Here are some things
to consider when looking at potential sites:**

1. Proximity and relationship to surrounding community

High Tech High schools seek to embed themselves in the fabric and life of the larger community. In this way, students access a wealth of local resources (businesses, public amenities, mentorship opportunities, etc.) while also exploring the needs of the community and how they can contribute to it.

2. Location of site relative to desired student base

The site location will greatly influence both who wants and who is able to attend your school. Centrally located sites will attract a wider and more diverse pool of applicants.

3. Community need

Locating a new school in an area where there is a perceived need will help to ensure strong community support. Community groups and organizations should be consulted in the initial stages of site selection.



4. Proximity and relationship to public transportation

Small schools often can't afford the expense of busing students to and from its school. To ensure a broad student base, school sites should be directly accessible by public transportation whenever possible. Low-income students in particular may not have access to other forms of transportation.

5. Natural features

Site orientation, slope, water level, soil composition, existing vegetation, and exposure to sun and wind all play a factor in the desirability of a building site.

6. Buildable/usable land area

The amount of usable area for building on a site is determined by factors such as zoning classification, setbacks, square footage limitations, easements, rights-of-way, lot size, soil composition, and land slope. Carefully research the amount of actual buildable area available on a potential site.

7. Hazardous Waste

Investigate the former uses of potential sites to determine the potential for hazardous waste deposits that could require costly remediation.

8. Zoning

The zoning classification of a site or building determines its allowable usage (i.e. residential, commercial, educational). If a site is not already designated as educational (E-1), it will require a change of zoning or a "conditional use permit" in order to be used as such. This may require time and political maneuvering, and the outcome may be uncertain.