

New schools await Pickens

New year starts Tuesday with some buildings still under construction

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Students will find new and renovated schools in Pickens County as they report for their first day of

classes Tuesday.

Projected enrollment for the School District of Pickens County is a little more than 16,000 students, said Julie Thompson, spokeswoman for the district.

The five new schools that are opening with the start of school this year — Pickens High, Liberty High, Dacusville Elementary, Chastain Road Elementary and the Pickens County Career & Technology Center — are part of the district's \$374 million building program, Thompson said.

"We also have some renovations going on," she said. "Some have been completed. Some are still in progress."

She said students at Liberty Elementary will find renovated facilities when they return to school.

Work at Dacusville and Edwards middle schools is still in progress, Thompson

students

said.

"With construction still going on in some schools — for example, the Daniel (High) construction is ongoing, Edwards Middle — we just have to be patient and understand that this is a temporary situation," Thompson said.

"I think anybody who goes and sees our new

buildings will agree that it was well worth any inconveniences for a short time."

Thompson said there aren't safety concerns with students being on campuses where construction is going on.

She said construction areas are fenced off.