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Displaced Owego students will remain at temporary location

Superintendent: We can't get it accomplished by next year

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Written by George Basler

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OWEGO -- Elementary school students displaced by flooding in September will remain at temporary locations for the 2012-13 academic year, Owego school officials said.

"Early on, we hoped we could repair Owego Elementary School and be back by next September, but as we got a more technical understanding, even if the building is repaired, we can't get it accomplished by next year," Owego-Apalachin Central School District Superintendent William Russell said Friday.

Current plans call for the school's kindergarten through fourth graders to again attend classes at the Linnaeus W. West Elementary School on Route 26 in the Town of Union, about 12 miles from their regular school.

"It's a virtual certainty, they will be there next year," Russell said.

Russell told the school's staff Friday they would be staying put, Principal Laurie McKeveny said.

"We'd all love to be back in our old building," she said. "If we've got to be somewhere else, this is working out as well as a temporary location can."

Russell said the Union-Endicott Central School District, which owns the building, has given approval for the Owego students to stay in the building for another year.

Owego Elementary's fifth graders have been integrated into classrooms at OA Middle School, while universal pre-kindergarten classes have moved to Abide-in-the-Vine's classrooms. The district may consider if these are the best arrangements for students, Russell said.

Meanwhile, the district's construction management and architectural/engineering firms are completing a damage loss report for the Owego Elementary School and other district



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3.57	R-Convenience 1550 Union Ctr Hwy near Payne Rd	Endicott	Jan 19, 9:12 PM
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