



GRAIN VALLEY
SCHOOLS



Elementary Schools Boundary Adjustments

Frequently Asked Questions

The school district is proceeding with an adjustment to elementary school boundaries that would take effect the fall of 2019.

Changing school boundaries is not a decision that is taken lightly and the school district only makes boundary changes when necessary. We began to anticipate the approaching need for an adjustment to elementary school boundaries two years ago. An assessment of elementary school capacities was conducted by Hollis+Miller Architects in February of 2017 and a professional demography study conducted by Business Information Services LLC was initiated in the summer of 2017. The results of the demography study were presented to the School Board in January of 2018. Based on the findings from both studies, and consultation with the City of Grain Valley officials on new housing developments in the planning stages or underway, a draft boundary adjustment proposal was crafted in September 2018. The proposed changes have been reviewed by a Steering Committee of citizen volunteers, the School Board, and the full community.

The community was able to register input, and our families asked many great questions through this process. Most questions and ideas are captured on our website and include a response from the district.

Based on input from our families, the proposed boundary changes include the following provisions, pending approval by the School Board at their workshop on December 6 at 6:00 pm at our district office:

- All students entering grades 1-5 next fall who are impacted by the change in boundaries will attend an orientation at their new school during the school day, together with the other students making the transition with them, in January. Each sending school will communicate this trip with families ahead of time.
- Matthews, Sni-A-Bar, and Stony Point will also each host an event for in-coming families yet this winter.
- Next year's 5th grade students impacted by the boundary changes may remain at their current school. Parents/guardians would be responsible for providing transportation. A process for families to communicate a request for 5th grade students to remain at their current school will be shared in December.
- School personnel will work with any student experiencing difficulty with the transition and will personalize the experience to address concerns and anxious feelings. Parents or guardians are encouraged to communicate with their current principal any concerns that may be unique to their child or situation to be considered prior to planning for school visits in January.

Why change the elementary boundaries and why now?

Enrollment at Prairie Branch Elementary and Matthews Elementary is increasing and class sizes are projected to increase. Neither have the space for continued growth. Both Sni-A-Bar Elementary and Stony Point Elementary have empty classrooms and downward trending enrollment.

Prairie Branch Elementary has 575 students (91% capacity) and Matthews Elementary has 512 students (91% capacity), while Sni-A-Bar Elementary has 438 students (75% capacity) and Stony Point Elementary has 456 students (75% capacity). The attendance areas at Prairie Branch and Matthews need to shrink and the attendance areas at Sni-A-Bar and Stony Point can grow. The result will provide Matthews and Prairie Branch with room to grow roughly 90 students each.

What are the proposed changes?

The proposal calls for roughly 90 students each to transfer from Matthews to Stony Point, from Matthews to Sni-A-Bar, and from Prairie Branch to Matthews. The result will provide Matthews and Prairie Branch with room to grow roughly 90 students each.

A map with the proposed boundary adjustments is available on our website GrainValleySchools.org under the FOR FAMILIES tab. A link is also available from our Grain Valley Schools App. This map captures the middle area of our school district directly impacted by the proposed boundary changes.

Why not build another elementary school?

The district has 1981 students in Kindergarten through fifth grades and our four elementary schools are at a combined capacity of 83%. This is an enrollment increase of 162 elementary students since 2009, an average increase of 18 students per year. We are 180 elementary students away from being at 90% capacity, which is our marker for when we would need an additional elementary school. Based on the growth over the past nine years, it could be 10 years before we need elementary #5. Even if elementary #5 is needed sooner, more space is needed at Matthews and Prairie Branch now and we have the space within the district.

What about middle school boundaries?

An adjustment was made to our middle school boundaries in 2016 and that adjustment continues to be adequate. No further changes are needed to the middle school boundaries at this time.

The proposed elementary boundary adjustment does address a long-standing concern that some Matthews students go on to North Middle School while others go to South Middle School. Under the new elementary boundary changes, the new Matthews boundary would all be within that of North Middle School. Matthews neighborhoods currently within the boundary for South Middle School would attend Stony Point or Sni-A-Bar and go on to middle school with all of their elementary classmates.

Visit GrainValleySchools.org for more information.

- **View Community Engagement Presentation**
- **Answers to Parent Questions**
- **Map of proposed elementary boundary adjustments.**

How will the district help ensure a smooth transition for children and families?

We are committed to making the transition as smooth as possible for each child impacted by the change. With all of the growth over the years, our district has a long history of boundary adjustments and in working with our families on those changes.

Matthews, Sni-A-Bar, and Stony Point will each host an event for in-coming students during the school day in January, plus host a family event. Each receiving school would also work with transitioning families to address individual needs on a case by case basis.

We recognize the importance of this transition and will work to make it as smooth as possible for everyone involved.

Elementary Boundary Adjustment process...

Our community input period ran October 18 through October 31.

The Steering Committee last met on November 13 at 6:00 PM at North Middle School, to review the proposed changes and other possible options before endorsing a final proposal for review by the School Board. This meeting was open to the public.

A final proposal was presented to the School Board at their monthly business meeting on November 15 at 6:00 PM in the library at North Middle School. This meeting was open to the public.

The soonest the School Board would approve any changes to the elementary school boundaries is December 6 (amended) at 6:00 PM at a board workshop at district offices (amended). This meeting is open to the public.

The District will initiate a process to reallocate personnel within the four elementary schools as needed following the approval of any boundary adjustments by the School Board.

The elementary schools will initiate a transition process for all students and families impacted by a change in school boundaries by the School Board.

