

## Long Range Facility Plan – Attendance Boundary Modification Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why was Katy HS not considered as part of the attendance boundary modification plan?** With the goal of minimizing multiple campus moves for students, recognizing that two new future high schools are projected in the southwest sector of the school district, modifications to the current Katy High School attendance zone is not under consideration at this time.

In addition, a future projected major reconstruction project at Katy High School and associated phasing will result in a strain on existing capacity capability.

2. **What is the current enrollment and capacity at all Katy ISD High Schools?** Click [here](#) for current enrollment projections and capacity numbers.
3. **Will transportation be provided for grandfathered students?** For the grandfathered students, transportation will be provided to all current high school students through the 2012-13 school year, after which time these students will have graduated. Any future younger sibling who attends the “original” high school with the older sibling will have transportation provided only through the 2012-13 school year, after which time transportation will cease.
4. **How does Taylor High School compare academically to the other schools in this recommendation?** Taylor High School is a quality high performing school which is recognized across the state for sustained excellence. For example, recent achievements include 10 National Merit Scholar Semi Finalists, Recognized by NCEA *Just for the Kids* Higher Performing Schools list, and qualifying for the state Academic Decathlon Competition this spring.

All Katy ISD High Schools offer the same graduation plans as defined by the state of Texas. Course offerings and elective offerings are very similar. Each campus offers many Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses. State assessment tests demonstrate similar achievement levels. Of particular interest is that Taylor High School is currently rated as “Recognized” by TEA, missing “Exemplary” status by only 1% in one subject area tested. Click [here](#) to view related state achievement data.

In addition, each campus has strong Fine Arts, UIL, academic and co-curricular programs often advancing to the state level of competition. The same is true in athletic competitions as each school has competed in one or more sports on the state level.

5. **Will the district consider district-wide attendance boundary modifications?** Not at this time. Due to ongoing projected enrollment growth, residential development (single and multi-family) and requisite new school facility construction projected over the next several years, district-wide attendance boundary modification review will not occur until residential build-out is reached within the District. Specific attendance boundary modifications will occur with both the construction of each new school facility, as well as in targeted situations to optimize enrollment capacity and balance enrollment between schools.

- 6. Why did Katy ISD select this public engagement process?** The current process for establishing attendance boundaries was approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2008, to help remove the divisiveness that had occurred previously by using rezoning committees made up of advocates within impacted LUZs alone. Additionally, the public engagement portion of the process was selected because it allows all residents from anywhere in the district to participate within a structure that provides the district with productive and meaningful feedback. Input is open to all residents either by direct participation in a workshop or by submission of online questionnaires and surveys. The open mike-open forum format was modified to allow community members to dialogue with other members of the community and bring forth shared feedback as well as allowing individuals to provide input directly to the Administration.
- 7. What happens if the proposed facility referendum (bond) in November 2010 doesn't pass?** Existing campuses would have to absorb the additional students. Without a facility referendum there would be no funds available for the purchase of temporary classrooms to increase a campus' capacity for students. It is projected that over the next several years, approximately 2,000 students per year will be added to the District. Classroom space must be found for these students. Existing support spaces (i.e. restrooms, cafeterias, etc.) may not be adequate to accommodate the increased enrollment.
- 8. Were all high schools considered in the attendance boundary modification to address the overcrowding at SLHS?** Yes, all campuses were considered in this recommendation. However, high enrollment projections at SLHS were better addressed by moving students from CRHS to THS and SLHS to CRHS. This provided the most stability of any option and in addition improved feeder patterns. Although moving students to any other campus from SLHS might give relief, it would require areas to move several times with the opening of multiple new high school campuses projected over the next ten years resulting in an increased level of instability. Administration and community view stability as a desirable outcome.
- 9. Will my child be able to participate in UIL activities?** Yes. Current 9-12 student-athlete's UIL varsity eligibility is not affected because they are not changing schools. The sibling rule will allow student-athletes to go to the campus that the older sibling is attending with a Katy ISD intra-district transfer. You will not have to file a UIL residency waiver for varsity athletic eligibility. However, once you go to the campus that the older sibling is attending, you cannot transfer out without losing varsity athletic eligibility.

Attendance boundary modification does not affect any sub-varsity athletic eligibility.

If you have any other questions regarding UIL varsity athletic eligibility as it pertains to attendance boundary modification, please call the Katy ISD Department of Athletics at 281-396-7780, or you can contact any of the High School Campus Athletic Coordinators.

- 10. How will the course selection process work for students affected by the proposed ABM changes?** Students will participate in the course selection process as planned at their current junior high school. Course selection information will be forwarded to the students' assigned high school later this spring. Since ninth grade course offerings are more standardized than upper class selections, moving from one high school to another as a freshman is relatively straight forward from a course selection standpoint.

- 11. Will current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have equal opportunity to try out for Fine Arts, athletics, and other co-curricular programs?** Yes. The proposed timeline for ABM approval provides ample time for students wishing to participate in these programs to be identified. The directors and coaches will ensure that students affected by the proposed ABM be provided equal opportunity to try out for the desired program.
- 12. What plans are there for improving existing district facilities?** The Long Range Facilities Planning process addresses both new school requirements, as well as existing school needs. As needs for existing facilities are identified, they are then considered as part of the Facility Referendum (Bond) Planning process. As part of the current Long Range Facilities Planning update, we have identified several projects for consideration at existing campuses.
- 13. What commitment does the district have to develop pure feeder patterns?** As part of the development of attendance boundary modifications, pure feeder patterns will be considered. If an opportunity for improving feeder patterns can be aligned with the enrollment pattern proposed for the modification, it will be incorporated. This is not always possible as a primary goal in attendance boundary modifications is enrollment balancing.
- 14. Can 3,700 students be accommodated at Seven Lakes High School?** We know based on past experience that 3,700 is a manageable number. Prior to the opening of Seven Lakes High School, Cinco Ranch High School experienced an enrollment close to 3,700. It should be noted that as part of the facility planning process for new schools in high growth areas, it is important to allow the existing campus to grow to a level whereby a viable number of students will be available to open the new school, while at the same time not leaving a void at the existing campus. The high enrollment is viewed as a short term situation that has in the past been successfully managed by campus administration.
- 15. How is High School Capacity calculated?** School capacity is based upon the number of standard classrooms and smaller/resource classrooms, i.e., not support/special use spaces, combined with the projected classroom load for each.
- 16. Has the proposed IB program and the Wolfe site been taken into consideration?** The proposed IB program is still under study and has yet to be approved by the Board of Trustees. Also, the proposed school would not be built in time to have any impact on the immediate need to provide relief for Seven Lakes High School.
- 17. Is this Attendance Boundary Modification simply a short-term solution to a long-term problem?** Attendance Boundary Modification is an integral part of the growth management process that the district utilizes. As the district continues to grow, Attendance Boundary Modification will be necessary as new schools are opened and when the need arises to balance enrollment between existing schools.
- 18. Will students have the option of “volunteering” to attend the new school to which our neighborhood will now attend?** Yes. The Board of Trustees approved a Volunteer Enrollment Option that will allow current high school students to attend the school to which their

neighborhood is zoned. More information about this option can be found on the [district's website](#).

**19. Was Exley Elementary considered for this Attendance Boundary Modification?** Exley was looked at and after reviewing the data it was determined that including Exley in this ABM would cause an imbalance at Taylor and Cinco Ranch over the long term.

**20. Why does the district not include property values as part of its criteria for ABM?** The criteria that we use when determining attendance boundaries is based on what is in the best interest of students regardless of where they live or their socio-economic status. As a public school system, Katy ISD is supported by all residents who live in our district, including those who do not have children enrolled in our schools. The revenue that is collected is used by the district to provide equal educational opportunities for all students so that all may have the opportunity to excel and achieve their highest potential.

(Check back frequently for more FAQs)