

Questions and Answers

Frisco ISD School Attendance Zone Boundary Change Information



Due to continued rapid growth (we have grown by more than 3,500 students this year, which represents 13 percent growth), we are opening a new high school (Heritage High School with grades 9-10) and two new elementary schools (Allen Elementary and the FISD Early Childhood School) in 2009. The opening of Heritage will impact Liberty and a small part of Wakeland; Allen will relieve Bledsoe, Spears and possibly Sparks. The Early Childhood School will be a centralized program for students across the district. See www.friscoisd.org for locations of new schools. With the opening of new schools comes the task of redrawing attendance zones. The following is a series of questions and answers that will hopefully provide insight into the decision-making process and timeline.

Q. When will these decisions be made and how can I have input? We will receive updated enrollment projections from our demographer in late September. Preliminary options for attendance zones for Heritage High School will be discussed in October and in November for Allen Elementary – both presentations will take place at the regular Board meetings. Written and emailed input will be taken from parents in the weeks following the presentations of the proposed zones. An agenda item on proposed zones, which will include an opportunity for citizen input, will be listed at the regular Board meetings in November for Heritage High School and in December for Allen Elementary. It is our hope to make a final decision in December for Heritage High and in January for Allen Elementary. Mark Mimms is the principal for Heritage High and the Allen Elementary principal will be hired in March/April, working toward a smooth transition for the next school year.

Q. What are the criteria for determining attendance zones in FISD? Priority is given to the neighborhood school concept at the elementary levels, and geographic location will also be a consideration in determining which elementary schools or neighborhoods feed into which middle school. However, other significant issues in addition to proximity include efficient space utilization, maintaining diversity within campuses, program effectiveness and providing stability. Stability issues to be addressed involve setting the zones for the maximum length of time possible to minimize the need for students to repeatedly change zones.

Q. Is there a chance that some elementary schools will be split when the students move on to middle school? It is not the most desirable situation, but in a fast-growth area trying to balance enrollments at schools, it is possible that students of one attendance zone at the elementary level may be assigned to different middle schools. It is also conceivable that students at a middle school may be assigned to different high schools.

Q. If we are rezoned, will this be the only time? Frisco ISD will be opening new schools each year for some time. We are, however, at a point in our growth where many zones are becoming more stable and drawing new attendance zones impacts an increasingly smaller number of existing boundaries.

Q. How will the administration, faculty and staff be selected for the new schools? By March/April 2009, principals will be recommended by the Superintendent to the Board of Education. The principals then will be responsible for selecting faculty and staff. Frisco ISD has a policy that outlines a procedure by which teachers may request transfer from one campus to another. Therefore, it is likely that some teachers at existing schools may ask for reassignment to the new campuses. The district, as always, will set parameters on the percentage of transfers allowed from one campus to another in the district, while also making certain that some experienced FISD teachers are assigned to the new schools.

Q. What is the timeline for opening Lone Star High School? Lone Star High School is being built east of Teel and north of Eldorado. It will relieve Wakeland High School. We will continue to monitor growth and enrollment trends and if something has changed, we could prepare to open Lone Star in 2009. Based on what we know at this time, the plan is to open Lone Star in 2010 with 9-11 graders.

Q. Will everyone - students, parents, and teachers - be completely satisfied with the new boundaries? Probably not. Changing schools is an emotional issue for all involved but is an inevitable issue to be addressed annually in a rapidly growing school district like FISD. We are growing rapidly because, like you, many people are moving here knowing that Frisco is a great place to live, to work, and to obtain a quality education for children. We have concerns with children changing schools multiple times during their elementary school years. That is why it is incumbent upon us to make the best, most well thought-out decisions possible. We hope these decisions will serve us well over time. Our guiding principle, as always, will be to provide the best and most equitable opportunities for all children. Schools within the district have the same general class sizes, the same general curriculum and comparable facilities. Although the philosophies of the instructional leaders may differ slightly, the same programs are provided throughout the district and guarantee a quality education at all campuses.

For a more complete understanding of the philosophy of rezoning and boundaries for this year, please read the article ([link here](#)) from the Back to School issue of Frisco Style magazine, which includes an interview with Dr. Rick Reedy, Superintendent of Schools.

For additional questions contact FISD internal demographer Dennis Brent at brentd@friscoisd.org or 469-633-6207.