

**Grand Prairie ISD  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Proposed Re-zoning for 2010-2011**

*To ensure consistency and accuracy in answering question about proposed rezoning in GPISD this Frequently Asked Questions document has been created.*

**1. As the district discusses rezoning, when would it go into effect?**

2010-2011 school year would be the beginning of new attendance zones in GPISD. There could be a few students in some areas that would be able to elect rezoning next school year.

**2. What will the process in this decision be?**

There will be a series of public meetings at which time a full presentation will be given along with question and answers. The Board has heard this presentation; staff is currently presenting it in small settings to various civic groups. After all of the presentations have been made, a formal recommendation will be given to the Board for its consideration.

**3. Will proposed rezoning affect the transfer policy for this year?**

Not for this year.

**4. With all of the rezoning will we then re-examine transfer policies?**

Yes. The transfer policy in GPISD is a unique local policy and some portions of it are inconsistent with legal policy. The Board will review the transfer policy and determine what needs to change.

**5. In the proposed rezoning, some campuses will be eliminated or repurposed for other grade levels. What will happen to the teachers?**

Teachers will have the opportunity to teach at other schools in the district. This re-zoning does not eliminate jobs, it may relocate some teachers to other schools.

**6. Has the district considered turning the old Jefferson Junior High School (now Travis Elementary) into a middle school?**

Yes, that has been discussed but it is not the best and most cost effective option for our community due to land requirements for middle schools.

**7. If the plan to have Crockett become a fifth grade center passes will it be a choice school?**

Not at this time. It will be attendance zone driven. However, if the fifth grade center pilot works like we think it will, the district could consider expanding the fifth grade center concept to other schools.

**8. Will the Early Childhood Center (Pre-K) be attendance zone driven as well?**

No, at this time parents will be able to elect to have their children there. The basic criteria for qualifying for Pre-K will still be in place.

**9. Will other campuses have Pre-Kindergarten programs?**

Yes. Existing Pre-K programs will continue at their campuses.

**10. The plan for rezoning calls for larger elementary schools of approximately 700 students. Why is this important?**

From a cost standpoint and to maximize facility use, elementary schools of 700 are very manageable, both fiscally and instructionally. Schools of this size are not out of the norm in other districts, and are economical in terms of staffing and usage.

**11. How many bus routes will be eliminated as a result of this plan?**

10-12 routes will be eliminated and save the district in fuel, staffing and time.

**12. What would Houston be repurposed to?**

There are a few options for the campus. Ideally the district will be able to sell that building. It could also be used for something other than an instructional purpose.

**13. What is the school district doing with the Boze building?**

The city has approached the district and discussed purchasing it.

**14. Would the district be considering this if the buildings were not so old?**

Yes. Getting schools to larger sizes makes it more efficient and cost effective to operate without decreasing educational effectiveness.

**15. What is the student to teacher ratio?**

The state mandates a class size of 22:1 for grades Pre-Kindergarten to grade four.

**16. In the past, GPISD administrators have said the ideal elementary school size was 550-600. What is different now that causes this administration to recommend schools of 700?**

Texas school finance has not improved and districts everywhere are finding ways to streamline services and reduce costs while maintaining high quality academic programming for students.

**17. Are we changing the high school boundary?**

No. The high school boundary will not change.

**18. Will this affect students psychologically?**

We will work with students to celebrate where they have been while preparing them for where they are going. Children are very resilient and our GPISD Counseling Department will recommend strategies to assist students in times of change.

**19. Why change Lee and Fannin?**

It makes sense from a building and program use standpoint. There are special programming requirements for Middle Schools and the property at Fannin will allow these changes to occur.

**20. I am a mom from Fannin and I understand my kids will go to Garcia and I have heard that Garcia seems to have traffic problems at the departure and with increase number of students don't you believe this will have an impact?**

GPISD staff and Grand Prairie Police will work to monitor all traffic patterns in these areas and make adjustments to traffic flow as needed. Our primary focus on the safety of our students as they travel to and from school will not change.

**21. Will the Early Childhood Center be open to all children or restricted to non-English speaking students?**

District staff is working now to identify ways to open the school to all students in that age group, not just non English speaking students. As the program develops, all information will be shared with parents in a timely manner.

**22. How will transfers be administered?**

We hope to eliminate the need for transfers as we redraw lines, but ultimately, school transfers are governed by Board policy and the administration will follow the Board Policy to allocate transfers.

**23. Before making a decision, will you consider votes/signatures from parents?**

The public meeting process is being used, along with FAQ documents such as these to consider all sides of this decision. The administration will make a recommendation to the Board at the end of the public meeting process which will then be voted on by the Board of trustees.

**24. Will the student/teacher ratio change and how will that compare to the student/teacher ratios on the south side of town?**

The student teacher ratio is set by the state and it is 22:1 in grades Kindergarten-4<sup>th</sup>. The ratios should not vary based on location.

**25. Why focus on the north side?**

We are focused the long-term health of the District. To do this, we have to look at demographic patterns, transportation costs and the utilization of all of our facilities. While we are considering other issues (safety at Houston, transportation at Fannin, etc.), many of our older buildings which have less student capacity are on the north side. We have more flexibility in terms of capacity on the south side.

**26. Are maps available to tell where kids will go to school?**

Yes. Visit the district website at [www.gpisd.org](http://www.gpisd.org) to view the maps.

**27. Who's going to Lee?**

Lee will take students from Austin, Bonham, Bowie, Crockett, Seguin, and Travis.

**28. Will transportation be provided for the children who will be moved to another campus?**

Transportation will be provided for students who live two miles from their school or who are on a designated "hazardous route." Students will be transported if they meet either of these criteria.

**29. What can we do as parents to decide what happens to our school?**

Parents should participate in this process, ask questions, and focus on the long-term financial health of the District while maintaining high academic standards.

**30. Will taxes increase?**

This re-zoning plan will not result in a tax increase.

**31. What would happen to the PPCD students at Bonham?**

This program would be relocated.

**32. What is the cost of remodeling middle school vs. the cost of remodeling Bonham for approx. 200 students?**

Budget information is being prepared.

**33. Why Bonham?**

The main reason is that it is centrally located and allows students to go to either Williams or Rayburn which both have increased capacity.

**34. My child will be moved from Fannin to Garcia, can you guarantee that he won't be moved again?**

We do not anticipate the need to move students.

**35. Where will all the teachers (Houston) go?**

Teachers will follow the students. A main objective of this plan is to keep from having to lose teachers.

**36. How many middle school kids will be at Fannin?**

Approximately 500 at the beginning.

**37. Will the athletic and fine arts facilities at Fannin be comparable to other middle schools?**

Yes, but probably not at first.

**38. Is it a good idea for a student to be in an elementary school, then moved to a 5<sup>th</sup> grade center, then moved to middle school?**

Students will be moving with their friends and, in many cases, their teachers. This should make transitions easier.

**39. What impact will the Crockett 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Center have on Daniels as a magnet?**

None. Crockett will be for 5<sup>th</sup> graders within its attendance area only while Daniels will continue to serve PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> graders in its attendance area.

**40. Are the school names tied to the buildings?**

That will be an issue for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

**41. Will teachers have to reapply?**

No.

**42. What will happen to the Newcomer Center at Lee?**

The location of the center is still under consideration.

*If you have a question regarding attendance and re-zoning e-mail your question to:*  
<mailto:attendance.rezoning@gpisd.org>

*This list will be updated as new questions are collected.*