

Redistricting Information

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the District will have four elementary schools. Listed below are common questions about the redistricting process and committee timeline.

Why are we redrawing the elementary attendance areas?

With the closing of two schools (Nathaniel Hawthorne and Delmar-Harvard) prior to the 2011-2012 school year, the lines must be redrawn to accommodate those students and continue to ensure efficient distribution of resources among schools.

When will we know new attendance areas for elementary schools?

The committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Education in November regarding the new attendance areas. Information will be provided to all parents once the Board has approved the recommendation.

I've seen several different proposed maps. What do they mean?

In the boundary committee process, multiple map concepts are presented for discussion purposes based on initial criteria selected by the Board. That initial criteria included demographic considerations, neighborhoods intact and building utilization. Based on community feedback, the boundary committee voted to reorder the criteria with neighborhoods intact being the top criteria for consideration. All maps are drafts until recommended to the Board and approved in November.

Will permissive transfers be honored once new attendance areas are known? Can students be grandfathered in at a specific school?

The committee has been charged with making a recommendation on permissive transfers and grandfathering. The committee will further discuss these two items during their meetings in the fall.

What role does the administration, Board and committee play?

The administration and Board selected the demographer with a focus on companies who provided a specific plan to engage the community in the process. The Board then selected some initial criteria to be considered and charged the committee with recommending up to three scenarios for new attendance areas. The process is now in the hands of the committee, who will make a final recommendation to the Board in November.

How will the District support students, parents and staff during transition?

The District's transition plan begins a year in advance, even before final attendance areas are known, and includes activities to foster a districtwide sense of community through various activities open to all schools. The transition support will continue once new schools are known by providing multiple opportunities for parents and students to tour the new school and meet the staff and fellow students.

I have a question not answered here. Who do I ask?

First, see the complete feedback summaries available at www.ucityschools.org by clicking on Destination UCity > Elementary Boundary Line Updates in the left sidebar. If your question remains unanswered, e-mail feedback@u-city.k12.mo.us. Responses will be posted online.

New Committee Dates

The original redistricting timeline slated the committee's recommendation to the Board for December 2010. In response to feedback from the community requesting an earlier decision, the Board and administration adjusted the timeline so that the committee's recommendation will occur in November, which changes some upcoming dates for meetings.

Committee Meetings - NEW DATES

**Oct. 4, 2010 & Nov. 8, 2010
6 p.m., McNair Board Room**

Public Forum - NEW DATE

**Oct. 18, 2010
6 p.m., McNair Board Room**

Redistricting Background

The process to redraw elementary attendance areas formally began in March with the selection of a demographer and the formation of a boundary committee comprised of community members and parent and staff representatives from each elementary school.

"Our aim is to ensure that this transition goes smoothly for our students and their families," said Joylynn Wilson, superintendent of schools.

As part of the Destination UCity community engagement effort in 2008 and 2009, the District determined the need to consolidate from six schools to four. The original timeline for consolidation was the 2012-2013 school year, but budget factors led to a recommendation to close one year earlier.

The new elementary attendance areas will go into effect for the 2011-2012 school year when the District consolidates to four elementary schools.

Between the June meeting and October meetings, the demographer will conduct an updated enrollment analysis to project future enrollment at each facility and provide the committee with updated projections related to building usage over time.

For more information, visit www.ucityschools.org

School Transitions FAQ

The transition process creates many questions for families with students in elementary school or approaching middle school. Listed below are common questions about upcoming changes.

What information will the District provide to elementary parents about their new school, and when will that information be available?

The District will create information packets for each elementary school that will include a biography and contact information for the principal, key facts regarding the school building, an overview of student activities/programs/services, and contact information for affiliated groups, such as the PTO. These packets will be available following the Board decision on new elementary boundaries in November 2010.

I'm concerned about my child going to a new school and not knowing any peers. Are there opportunities for us to meet other families attending our school?

During districtwide events this school year, there will be structured activities available for students while parents/guardians are meeting. This will allow students from various schools to interact. Once new attendance areas are determined, students and parents will be invited to tour the school, ask questions and talk with the principal, teachers and staff. In addition, the District is planning a variety of summer activities to bring school communities together.

How will teachers/staff be affected? When will I know my child's teacher?

The exact number of teachers needed in each building cannot be determined until new boundary lines are decided by the committee. Once the number of students per grade level are determined, the District will work to ensure appropriate staffing for each of the four buildings. Parents should be notified of their child's teacher prior to the conclusion of this school year.

I have a 5th grader or 6th grader this year who will go to Brittany Woods next year. What information do I need to know?

If you haven't yet been inside the remodeled Brittany Woods, visiting the school is an important first step. You may schedule an appointment to visit the school and talk with administrators and teachers at any time. The District will host the fall Conversations with the Superintendent on Wednesday, October 13, at Brittany Woods and invites all prospective students and parents to attend. Brittany Woods will also have a 6th and 7th Grade Transition Night in January specifically for parents of incoming students to hear more about Brittany Woods' classes, activities, team structure, registration process and much more.

What happens to the buildings after the elementary schools close?

Due to the number of students exceeding capacity at the McNair building, the Nathaniel Hawthorne building will be used to accommodate students from Pershing during the 2011-2012 year, while the Pershing facility is torn down and rebuilt. A decision has not been made regarding the future use or sale of the Delmar-Harvard and Nathaniel Hawthorne buildings. Please keep in mind that proceeds from the sale of District property would be deposited in the capital projects fund and would not provide relief to our operating budget.

Related Events

Conversations with the Superintendent Wed., Oct. 13, 2010

Brittany Woods Middle School

Includes tours of new Library/Media Center, activities for students of all ages, and the opportunity to talk with Brittany Woods teachers and staff.

6th & 7th Grade Transition Night Thurs., Jan. 20, 2011

Brittany Woods Middle School

For incoming students and parents, this night includes information on classes, activities, team structure, registration process and more.

Elementary Open Houses February 2011, Dates TBA

Learn more about the school, activities, staff and other key topics.

Conversations with the Superintendent March 2, 2011

Location TBA

Includes tours of new facility and activities for students.

Daytime Visits to Schools March 2011, Dates TBA

See the schools in action during the day.

Celebration of Learning April 27, 2011

Location TBA

Hands-on activities for students.

For more information, visit www.ucityschools.org