



2014-2015 Attendance Zone Proposals Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is a freshmen academy being recommended?**
Research shows that the freshman year is critical for high school success. The academy model eases the transition to high school and provides a greater sense of belonging for the students. The anticipated number of high school students that would be zoned to Bartlett High would far exceed capacity levels. A freshman academy would help relieve potential overcrowding at Bartlett High and help stabilize enrollment within the middle schools.
- **Why not use Shadowlawn as a second high school?**
Staffing issues and the timing of getting a second high school operational by the start of school is not possible.
- **What about honors courses at the academy?**
If the school board approves the freshman academy, honors courses will be offered at the academy.
- **What about extra-curricular activities for students at the freshman academy?**
The freshman academy will have a full complement of extracurricular activities including band, chorus, athletics and clubs.
- **How will the band program work?**
A band director at freshman academy would provide instruction during the school day and work with the band instructor on the Bartlett High campus to coordinate the two programs. The 9th grade director would provide additional opportunities to enhance and grow the overall high school band program.
- **How will students participate in afterschool activities at the main campus if they are attending the freshman academy?**
We are exploring the option of providing an activity bus for 9th grade students attending the freshman academy and participating in afterschool activities on the Bartlett High campus.
- **Why are the zones changing for the elementary schools?**
The proposed attendance zone changes will impact Bon Lin Elementary, Ellendale Elementary and Rivercrest Elementary. The changes are recommended to balance enrollment among the elementary schools and plan for future growth.

- **Did you look at grade reconfigurations?**
Yes. We explored various configurations including K-8, K-6 and 7-9 grade structures. The estimated number of 6-8 students in the K-8 configuration is a challenge in offering a full academic and extracurricular program. The 7-9 grade configuration poses licensure issues for teaching staff and obstacles in recruiting highly qualified staff.
- **If my child is being rezoned, can he/she remain at their current school?**
Yes. We would offer an opportunity for these students to request transfers. Information will be posted on our website regarding the transfer process. In accordance with board policy, transportation is not provided for transfer students.
- **Will transportation be provided?**
Yes. Transportation will be provided to students residing outside of the parent responsibility zone (PRZ) and who are attending their zoned school of assignment.
- **What about school start times?**
We are exploring the cost of moving from three bell times to two bell times.
- **How was building capacity determined?**
The high school ratio was based on a 20 to 1 program capacity. Many upper level courses have lower ratios due to student interest. BHS previously had 2,400 students with 18 portable classrooms and exceeded maximum capacity.
- **What are the next steps?**
The Board of Education will consider the proposals and the superintendent's recommendation at their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2014.