



2018-2019 Elementary Redistricting

“Frequently Asked Questions”

Q: When will the redistricting plan be completed?

A: The goal is to present the redistricting plan to the Board of Education on March 11, 2019, at their regularly scheduled meeting.

Q: Who is deciding the new boundaries?

A: A team of 24 parents is studying information and this parent team will make recommendations to the Board of Education for the new boundaries. The Board of Education has the responsibility for final approval.

Q: Are district administrators involved in the redistricting process.

A: Yes. There are five administrators facilitating the process with the parents. Mr. Koerner (Executive Director of District Services) and Mr. Oliver (Director of Transportation) are assisting the demographer by providing information. Dr. Coates (Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning) is a resource for questions related to instruction. Mr. Storm (Chief Financial Officer) is available for questions about finances or costs associated with any changes. Dr. Fichtner (Superintendent) is hosting the parent meetings, updating principals, and is responsible for communicating with the community throughout the process.

Q: How often is the redistricting team meeting?

A: The team has two large group meetings - one in November and one in December. Additionally, in December the committee will work in small teams with the demographer to study the district maps. There are five meetings scheduled in January, February, and early March for the large group to analyze all the data then come to a consensus about the boundaries.

Q: What criteria is the redistricting team using for creating the new boundaries?

A: The team has the following goals: Proximity to School (neighborhood schools, walkability, commute time by car/bus) and Changes (the best long-term changes along with minimal changes needed).

Q: Will there be a vote on the new boundaries?

A: No. The redistricting team has been charged with the task of studying this topic for four months through a series of meetings and then make a recommendation.

Q: Will parents have the opportunity to see the new boundaries before the Board of Education considers approving them?

A: Before the Board of Education is presented with the new boundaries, it is the district's intention to host a variety of meetings so community members can see the recommendations. The schedule for those meetings has not been set as it will depend on when the redistricting team finishes its work.

Q: How does the redistricting team know where students live?

A: The district provided the addresses of all of the PreK through 4th-grade students who are currently enrolled in Owasso Public Schools to a demographer because those students will be the students who attend elementary school next year. The demographer has mapped all of the addresses of those students so the redistricting team can study the information.

Q: Are all our elementary school buildings the same size?

A: No. Our buildings each have a unique footprint and therefore have a different capacity. The capacity of each building is provided to the redistricting team for consideration.

Q: Does the committee or the demographer have the names of the students?

A: No. Only the addresses and grades of the students are provided to the demographer. With that information, he places dots on the maps to indicate where students live so the redistricting team has that information. There is no need for the demographer or the redistricting team to have student names.

Q: How will we know where our children will attend school next year?

A: Once the new boundaries are approved by the Board of Education, the district will communicate with parents so they know which school is their child's for 2019-2020. Our goal is to communicate the new boundaries before Spring Break of 2019 so parents have plenty of time to make appropriate arrangements by August.

Q: Can parents apply for a transfer to another school if they prefer a different elementary school?

A: No. There will be no in-district transfers granted. Approving individual in-district transfers would conflict with the purpose of redistricting.

Q: I heard that 5th Graders will be able to stay at their current school. Is that true?

A: If a 5th Grader's elementary school changes, the 5th Grader will be able to finish at the current elementary school provided the parents provide transportation.

Q: Could the 5th Grader's siblings attend that school, too?

A: No. The provision is only for 5th Graders so they can finish their elementary career at the same school.

Q: Are the principals involved in choosing their school's boundaries?

A: No. The principals recommended parents to serve on the redistricting team. Other than that, they are not participating in the process.

Q: When will the Principal be chosen for Morrow Elementary?

A: After the new boundaries are established, the position of Principal for Morrow Elementary will be posted and applicants may begin applying.

Q: Which teachers will move to Morrow Elementary or to other schools with changing enrollment?

A: After the new boundaries are established, the district will determine how many teachers are needed at each school. The district leaders will collaborate to create a plan for staff to follow students, as needed. This plan will be well communicated with teachers and staff.

**If, after reading these FAQs and the other information on the district website,
you still have questions please feel free to email
Dr. Amy Fichtner, our superintendent, at
amy.fichtner@owassops.org.**

FAQs will be updated throughout the redistricting process.