



Northshore
School District

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Proposed 2020 Elementary School Program Placements with Temporary 2019 Adjustments

This Document was prepared using the Draft Boundary Adjustments presented by the Enrollment Demographics Taskforce (EDTF) on 10/8/18 and Program Placement discussions held by the Northshore School District Cabinet. This is a draft document for discussion purposes and not final decisions by the District.

Elementary School Program Placement

This document includes some proposed program placement moves for the 2020/21 school year. At the end there are also some proposed temporary actions for the 2019/20 school year to partially alleviate overcrowding at Kokanee and Fernwood.

Preface

The Northshore School District Board of Directors is strongly committed to the District's mission of "Strengthening Our Community through Excellence in Education." To provide a coherent roadmap for achievement of our goals the District adopted its Strategic Plan in 2017. The first building block of that plan is "Equitable Access to Personalized and Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning."

As part of its commitment to ensure a dynamic environment of academic excellence for all students, the School Board established the Enrollment Demographic Task Force (EDTF) to study District enrollment and demographics and provide recommendations. In October 2018, the EDTF provided the School Board with draft recommendations for boundary adjustments for 2020 to incorporate the additional capacity provided by a new elementary school near Maltby and a facility expansion at Canyon Creek Elementary/Skyview Middle Schools.

The addition of new capacity in the northern part of the District also allows us to consider changing the placement of programs to allow equitable access to those programs for all students. The placement of programs needs to be coordinated with boundary adjustments in order to balance capacity and enrollment ensuring that schools are not overcrowded and providing a safe and healthy learning environment. Both of these decisions also impact the allocation of financial resources to transport students as well as the time students spend being transported.

EDTF Recommendations

Current Situation

In the northern portion of the District two elementary schools, Kokanee and Fernwood, are extremely overcrowded. This overcrowding has forced Fernwood to relocate six of their Kindergarten classrooms to Frank Love Elementary, adding 20 minutes or more to the transportation time of these students each direction. At Kokanee instruction and special services are being provided in multiple non-instructional spaces.

Additional Capacity

In the Fall of 2020 the new elementary school will open with a capacity of approximately 500 students. At the same time, the expansion at Canyon Creek will add approximately 275 students to their existing capacity.

Recommended Boundary Adjustment Impact

EDTF's draft recommendation included boundary adjustments for three existing elementary schools; Kokanee, Fernwood and Canyon Creek. Enrollments at all of these schools as well as the new school changed significantly with these proposed adjustments. All of these changes are based on projected 2020/21 resident students in the area. To relieve crowding at Kokanee the adjustments shifted approximately 127 students to the new school and 20 students to Canyon Creek. To relieve crowding at Fernwood the adjustments shifted approximately 282 students to the new school and 111 students to Canyon Creek. While Canyon Creek received 131 students from the two transfers above they also shifted 34 students to the new school. The new school received approximately 443 students from the three existing schools. In total, 574 students are projected to be reassigned with the draft adjustment.

Elementary Program Placement

The Northshore School District currently has several academic elementary programs including Elementary Advanced Placement (EAP), Dual Language (DUAL), Parents Active in Cooperative Education (PACE) and the Northshore Family Partnership (NFP).

Current Locations

EAP

Full grade range EAP programs (grades 2-5) are located at both Bear Creek Elementary and Lockwood Elementary.

Partial grade range EAP programs are located at Moorlands (grades 3/4), Sunrise (grades 4/5), and Woodmoor (grades 3/4/5).

There are no EAP programs located in the North Creek HS feeder pattern. The majority of EAP qualified students in the region are transported to Bear Creek.

Dual Language

The Dual Language program is currently located at Woodin Elementary

NFP

The Northshore Family Partnership is currently located at Bear Creek Elementary

PACE

The PACE program is currently located at Lockwood Elementary, Wellington Elementary, and Woodmoor Elementary.

Considerations

Programs should be placed to allow equitable access to all students. This is especially true for EAP which is not a "choice" program.

Neighborhood schools which contain a program should retain enough capacity to allow at least two classes at each grade level for sustainability of the neighborhood school.

Having multiple programs in one school will only improve the overall mission of the school if those programs are linked in some way and have similar programmatic intent. It may be better

to limit schools to two populations (neighborhood + 1 program or 2 linked programs with no neighborhood).

Current Issues

North end EAP students do not have a program available in their region have long bus rides to Bear Creek.

Bear Creek Elementary has multiple programs and only one class of neighborhood students at each grade level.

Lockwood Elementary and Woodmoor Elementary have multiple programs in addition to their neighborhood students.

FSA and Early Childhood programs are both constrained by space considerations to school sites that are not optimal.

Proposed Elementary Program Adjustments for 2020/21

The DUAL and NFP programs would continue to be housed at their current locations.

EAP programs realigned with one program site within each region. A new north region program would be opened at Canyon Creek utilizing some of the increased capacity (approximately 196 students). The west region program would continue at Lockwood (approximately 116 students). The south region would be consolidated into Moorlands by not adding any new students to the program at Woodmoor (approximately 102 students once combined). The east region would be consolidated into Sunrise Elementary with any remaining EAP students from Bear Creek being reassigned (approximately 143 students).

Moving EAP classes out of Woodmoor as well as transferring some FSA classes to the new elementary school will free up classrooms at Woodmoor. This will allow Early Childhood programs to move to more compatible sites.

Some PACE program moves will be considered. Moving Lockwood PACE to Frank Love would eliminate having multiple programs at Lockwood.

The current situation at Bear Creek will need to be addressed when EAP is moved out. There are two directions we could go to ensure that the gen ed students there are in a sustainable neighborhood program. One direction would be to increase the gen ed enrollment at Bear Creek to ensure there are at least two classes at each grade level. This would either mean moving the boundaries in this region to increase their enrollment or some other more creative approach. The other possible direction is to reassign those students to other neighborhood schools in the region by moving boundaries and making Bear Creek into a “program” school. One possibility would be moving PACE from Wellington to Bear Creek.

Temporary Adjustments for 2019/20

Due to the extreme overcrowding at both Fernwood and Kokanee some temporary adjustments will be required.

- Seven K classes from Fernwood will be transported to Frank Love (similar to current year)

- One K class from Fernwood will be transported to Canyon Creek. This class will be comprised of students who will be reassigned to Canyon Creek in 2020 as first graders.
- A small number of Kokanee K students will be transported to Canyon Creek and ultimately reassigned to Canyon Creek as first graders in 2020.
- Three K classes from Kokanee will be transported to Wellington. This will include students who will be reassigned to Elementary #21 in 2020 as first graders.

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