

Attendance Boundaries

Why is HISD adjusting attendance boundaries?

The Houston Independent School District is working to readjust attendance boundaries at 23 schools in an effort to reduce the number of class-size waivers submitted each year to the state. The goal of the boundary readjustment is to alleviate overcrowding while still maintaining the traditional demographic makeup of each affected school.

Why do we have to decrease the number of class-size waivers we submit?

The Texas Education Agency has asked HISD to decrease the number of class-size waivers the district submits each year. This school year, HISD had to submit nearly 1,500 class-size waivers to the state education agency. In response to the TEA's request, we're now attempting to cut that number in half for the 2015-2016 school year, with plans to continue the decrease incrementally through 2019.

Why does the Texas Education Agency care how big our classes are?

The TEA requires all kindergarten through fourth-grade classes to have no more than 22 students per classroom. Classes that exceed that number must be granted a state waiver by the TEA.

Which schools are potentially affected?

Affected schools include Anderson, Ashford, Askew, Bastian, Burbank, Bush, Crockett, Daily, Emerson, Highland Heights, Kelso, Love, Lyons, Memorial, Northline, Shadowbriar, Sinclair, Smith, Stevens, Tinsley, Walnut Bend and Young elementary schools, and Halpin Early Childhood Center.

Why were these 23 schools selected?

These 23 schools have been identified for possible boundary adjustments because they are either overcrowded or have space for students currently living within the attendance boundaries of neighboring overcrowded schools. Other schools that are overcrowded but don't have surrounding campuses with available space could see programmatic changes or portable buildings installed to address the issue.

What else is HISD doing to address overcrowding?

District officials also are proposing some policy revisions including adding an extra layer of scrutiny to the waiver-review process, eliminating waivers for district charter schools, and capping the number of transfer students that schools may accept from outside their attendance boundaries.

How do we find out more information about the proposal for our school?

Informational community meetings designed to provide additional details on the proposals and gather feedback from parents will be held over the next month.

Who makes the final decision on attendance boundary changes?

The HISD Board of Education makes the final decision. The board is set to vote on the issue in March after receiving community input. The district's goal is to implement any board-approved changes in time for the 2015-2016 school year.