

Current Hays CISD Zoning Recommendation

Document Prepared: October 17, 2024

Note: This recommendation is part of the ongoing, near-term planning for the most efficient use of, and the balancing of student populations at, school building resources. It is subject to change during the fall 2024 rezoning process. Parent and public participation and comment is invited during the process. Follow the process or share your thoughts at www.hayscisid.net/zone2024.

Recommendation

Based on public comment to-date and analysis of data, the current administrative recommendation before the Board is Draft Map Option 2.

Draft Map Option 2 creates an attendance zone for Ramage Elementary primarily by pulling students from the current Hemphill Elementary School zone. Some of the easternmost portions of the Fuentes Elementary School zone are also assigned to Ramage Elementary School in this map scenario because the new school is constructed in the current Fuentes Elementary School zone.

Objectives Achieved

The Draft Map Option 2 recommendation achieves the primary objective of creating an attendance zone so that Ramage Elementary (Elementary #17) can open in August 2025. Additionally, it achieves the goal stated in Policy FC (Local) to keep school attendance areas as stable as possible. This map recommendation is the least disruptive map option.

Challenges Remaining

Challenges in balancing student populations in a fast-growth school district such as Hays CISD are ever present. The Draft Map Option 2 does not address concerns presented in public comment during the process regarding middle school overcrowding. However, the district believes that alternate solutions outside of the attendance zone process, at this time, could alleviate this problem.

Draft Map Option 2 also leaves unaddressed (through the attendance zoning process at this time) additional near-future student population growth concerns at four elementary schools: Pfluger, Sunfield, Uhland, and Camino Real. The district also believes that alternative solutions outside of the attendance zone process, at this time, could alleviate this problem.

Alternate Option to Address Middle School Overcrowding (Outside of the Attendance Zone Recommendation)

Adjustments to middle school maps were not the target of this attendance rezoning process. However, in listening to concerns presented by parents and staff during the process, it is clear that an immediate solution to the rapid growth at McCormick Middle School, followed closely by Simon Middle School, must be addressed. Accordingly, district leadership has developed an idea that could expand transfer options in the district, called something like a “Hays Choice Transfer.”

The Hays Choice Transfer program could open voluntary transfers (that include transportation) in situations where student population reductions would benefit the district and affected campus. This program would be a companion program to what is traditionally known as “Cap and Overflow.”

In Cap and Overflow, once a school reaches capacity, new students moving into the area are required to attend the next assigned middle school (with transportation). Under a Hays Choice Transfer program, the district would first seek voluntary transfers before having to implement a Cap and Overflow program.

To address middle school overcrowding, the district intends to test a Hays Choice Transfer program for McCormick students who wish to attend Dahlstrom Middle School and for Simon students who wish to attend Chapa Middle School. These options would not affect high school feeder patterns or jeopardize UIL eligibility for students. The program would be developed, implemented, and operated in the district Curriculum and Instruction Division, most likely through the currently existing student transfer office.

Alternate Option to Address Other Elementary School Overcrowding (Outside of the Attendance Zone Recommendation)

To alleviate overcrowding at other elementary schools, the following options are available outside of the current rezoning process:

- Moving certain districtwide special programs that are currently housed at crowded elementary schools to schools with more room. (Curriculum and Instruction Division)
- Pre-zoning planned, new phases of subdivisions where no students currently live to schools with more room. This could be a separate rezoning process at a later date. (Operations Division)
- Using portable classrooms at schools until new facilities can be placed on a future bond for voter consideration (Operations Division)
- Building more schools which will be needed to keep pace with the projected, rapid growth in Hays CISD. This option would require voter approval through school building bonds. (Operations Division, Facilities and Bond Oversight Committee)

Attachments to Recommendation:

Draft Map Option 2
Data Table for Draft Map Option 2

Additional Resources:

Complete Fall 2024 zoning process information: www.hayscisid.net/zone2024