

**Snoqualmie Valley School District**  
**Elementary School Attendance Boundary Review**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

*(updated 10-13-15)*

**1. Why are new elementary school attendance boundary changes needed?**

As one of the fastest growing areas in Washington State, voters approved a school bond in February 2015 to fund construction of a new elementary school, rebuild the high school and make improvements throughout the District, to help serve our growing student enrollment. As the District prepares to expand from five to six elementary schools by 2016-17, boundary revisions are needed to:

- Populate the new Elementary School #6;
- Make adjustments to student enrollment and services among all the district's elementary schools;
- Allow for future anticipated growth due from new housing;
- Accommodate Full-Day Kindergarten for all children, which the state is mandating by 2016-17;
- And, provide additional space needed for reducing class sizes in grades K-3, for which the state Legislature is providing additional funding.

**2. When will a final decision on new attendance boundaries be made?**

It is anticipated that the decision on new attendance boundaries will be finalized in early November.

**3. When will the changes take effect?**

Elementary attendance boundary changes approved by the School Board take effect next fall starting the 2016-17 school year.

**4. What is the process for determining boundary changes?**

This fall, the Elementary School Attendance Boundary Committee developed five potential options, based on the latest demographic data, enrollment projections and criteria for boundary changes. These initial options were made available online and sent to parents via district E-News, along with Survey #1, to gather feedback from September 30-October 7. The committee considered feedback submitted from over 430 respondents, then worked to narrow the options to a short list of two possible solutions. Currently, the public can view these two options online, provide feedback through Survey #2 (available October 12-23), and attend two community meetings planned for October 20 and 21. The committee will again consider feedback gathered from these activities, prior to making its recommendation. It is anticipated that the decision on new attendance boundaries will be made by the School Board in early November.

5. **What criteria will guide the decisions on the boundary change?**

The following criteria (in no particular order) are being considered for this boundary decision:

- Manages enrollment over the next three years with the addition of the new school;
- Maximizes the number of families that can attend elementary school in the area families reside (i.e. North Bend, Snoqualmie, or Fall City);
- Minimizes disruption to programs;
- Ensures enough classroom capacity at each elementary school to accommodate the new state requirement of Full-Day Kindergarten for all students;
- Ensures enough capacity at each school to implement the state Legislature's class size reduction targets in grades K-3.

6. **Why is the process happening now?**

Adjusting attendance boundaries sooner than later has several advantages, even though new boundary changes would not go into effect until the next school year. Confirming the distribution of students will serve as a guide for future planning such as: staffing decisions, providing special education support and other programs where needed, and transportation logistics. Defining new attendance boundaries is a key step for preparing for opening a new school.

7. **Why are parents not represented on the Boundary Review committee?**

The Elementary Boundary Review committee is comprised of district administrators, principals, and technology and transportation specialists – based on past experience. Parents who served on previous attendance boundary review committees made it clear that the experience was very uncomfortable for them. They received many direct complaints from other parents and neighbors unhappy with the process. Given the high level of emotion that a re-boundary process can elicit, the District did not feel comfortable asking volunteers to take on this difficult work that puts them in the public eye in a way that can be quite negative.

8. **Will parents have input into the boundary review process?**

Yes. The committee has been studying school building capacities, enrollment trends, demographic information and other relevant information to develop viable options. Two online surveys are part of the process, along with two community meeting opportunities, to help provide the committee with feedback that is helping guide the process. The process has been designed to allow everyone to have input. The School Board will make the final decision on the boundaries after evaluating the recommendation of the committee and Superintendent.

9. **When are the public meetings?**

Two public meetings are scheduled to present the final options under consideration. The same content will be presented at both meetings:

- Tuesday, October 20, 6:30 p.m. at North Bend Elementary School
- Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Si Freshman Campus

**10. What is meant by a “feeder” pattern? How does it apply to this transition?**

Both of the remaining two options being considered support a consistent future middle school "feeder" pattern. In the fall of 2019, all freshman students will move into the newly rebuilt Mount Si High School, along with other students in grades 10-12. This transition will allow the District to convert the Freshman Campus back into Snoqualmie Middle School, returning to a three-middle-school model (instead of two currently). By then, with a total of six elementary and three middle schools, the District is planning for a scenario that involves two elementary schools “feeding” into each middle school. Both elementary boundary options remaining will allow for the same feeder pattern. The Elementary Boundary Review committee has been studying this topic and is likely to recommend to the School Board the following, beginning in the fall of 2019:

- Elem #6 and FCES students to attend Chief Kanim Middle School (CKMS)
- OES and NBES students to attend Twin Falls Middle School (TFMS)
- SES and CVES students to attend Snoqualmie Middle School (SMS)

**11. I noticed there may be some empty classrooms at some schools as a result of the proposed boundary options. How is the District planning to use that space?**

Classrooms that appear to look “unused” on the classroom capacity charts (under each map) will likely be utilized for other program needs. Decisions about the location of some smaller programs will come after new boundaries have been finalized.

**12. Will elementary families have the option to choose which school they want their student to attend?**

Not this time. The purpose of revising attendance boundaries is to adjust student enrollments and ensure appropriate services are provided for all Snoqualmie Valley schools. A clear understanding of the boundaries and related enrollment is needed to guide staffing decisions, program planning, student services, and transportation routing, in preparation for the coming 2016-17 school year.

**13. Has SVSD made a guarantee or promise that certain neighborhoods will always attend specific schools?**

No. The District does not make such promises or guarantees about attendance boundaries. Given the growth in the District, the need for new schools and to efficiently use available capacity of our buildings, as well as, city and county land use issues that impact our area, capacity needs can change over time. The District is also not responsible for promises made by others regarding attendance areas. Information provided by developers, realtors, or title companies may or may not be current.