

BSISD Campus Reconfiguration – Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why the change?

The primary reason for reconfiguring our elementary campuses is to maximize our instructional resources and to target those resources in such a way that we give our students the best chance to meet their academic objectives.

2. Does this stem from an overcrowding issue or a teacher shortage?

Neither the student population nor the market for teachers factored into our decision to reconfigure. The reality is, our enrollment is down slightly from where it was a year ago. The decision was based almost exclusively on positioning our students for academic success. We believe that this strategy will allow our best teachers to reach more students and also positively influence more of their teaching peers. The reconfiguration will also allow our administrators and teachers to more efficiently focus on academic objectives that are specific to grade levels.

3. What concerns have parents brought to our attention?

The primary concern we've heard from parents is relative to transportation. We certainly considered that issue while the reconfiguration was in the discussion phase. What we learned is that families who have students in multiple grade levels will all eventually face the challenges of getting students to multiple campuses - - whether we make this change or not. We already have parents who have children attending school on three different campuses. For the rare family that has more than three children, the drop-off and pick up routine might become more difficult. We also discovered that in some cases, the new configuration will simplify and shorten traffic patterns for parents and for our buses.

4. Why does the district believe the change will be beneficial for students?

In addition to what was mentioned in responses to items 1 and 2, the reconfiguration will help us better serve the significant number of our students who move from one elementary campus to another during the course of a school year. As it stands now, if a 3rd grader moves from one part of town to another, the student gets a new teacher or new teachers, and he or she also gets new classmates. The new configuration will eliminate the negative academic consequences associated with a mid-year move from one attendance zone to another.

5. How long has the district been discussing this change?

In some respects, the idea has been around for years, and consequently it's been discussed informally amongst educators in Big Spring for years. Several of the surrounding school districts have already made similar changes, Andrews, Sweetwater, and Snyder to name a few. This year, we made time available during some of our professional development days to allow grade level teachers from all four of our elementary campuses to plan together. Our teachers found that time valuable for a number of reasons. They learned more about their universal challenges. More importantly, they learned to work

together to address those challenges and help our students master the material. It was a natural consequence of that staff development time to come to the conclusion that if we concentrated our students by grade level(s), we could get much more efficient at delivering quality instruction consistently.

Formal discussion about a possible reconfiguration started just after the second semester began.

6. How do I find out where my K-2 student will attend school for the 17-18 school year?

If you live in what was previously the Moss or Washington attendance zone, your K – 2 student will attend Moss. If you live in what was previously the Goliad or Marcy attendance zone, your K-2 student will attend Marcy. If you have a 3rd grader, he or she will attend the Washington campus, and if you have a 4th grader, he or she will attend the Goliad campus. If you have a question about which attendance zone you reside in, please contact the BSISD Records and Registration office at 432-264-3622.

7. Will PE, Music, computer access, and Library time be available on all campuses?

Yes, PE, Music, computer access, and Library time be available on all campuses.

8. Will extra-curricular services such as Gifted & Talented, UIL, Science Fair, etc. continue under the new configuration?

Yes, students who qualify to receive Gifted & Talented services will continue to be served on all campuses. The opportunity to participate in academic competitions and the Science Fair will also be available to all students on all campuses.

9. Is transportation available for my student?

Transportation qualifications will remain the same as in previous years. Students living within a 2 mile radius of their assigned campus must provide their own transportation; students living outside of a 2 mile radius of their assigned campus will be eligible for bus transportation.