

Boundary Change Decision Framework

Overview

In 2025, an advisory committee was charged by the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education with reviewing middle school boundaries to determine if changes were needed. This decision framework is the result of this committee's findings.

The decision framework provides guidance on how the Board of Education may approach changes to attendance boundaries. The goal is to provide clear reasons for change, measurable outcomes for success, and to ensure changes do not create adverse results.

Reasons for Change

Below are six reasons the committee believes are justification for changes to attendance boundaries.

Reason	Justification
Improving Academic Outcomes	Boundary changes may impact academic outcomes by impacting resource allocation, balancing student needs across schools, or creating conditions that impact academic outcomes.
Balancing Enrollment	Boundary changes may address over and under utilization of schools.
Ensuring Diverse Populations in All Schools	Boundary changes may impact diverse populations by balancing student needs across schools.
Addressing Facility Needs	Boundary changes may result as part of addressing facility needs such as renovation or new construction.
Changing Community Populations	Boundary changes may address a change to a community population such as a decrease in the number of students in an attendance boundary.
Ensuring Student Safety and Wellbeing	Boundary changes may address a safety need for students such as addressing student transportation needs.

Decision Framework

The committee recommends the Board of Education using the following framework to ensure a successful outcome when changing attendance boundaries.

Setting

What: What is the specific change being made?

Why: What is the reason for the change and how will success be measured?

When: When will the change take effect?

People

Responsible: District administration develops and presents changes to attendance boundaries

Approver: The Board of Education votes in a public meeting to approve changes to attendance boundaries.

Consulted: Stakeholders, such as parents or community members, may be consulted for input regarding changes.

Informed: Stakeholders will be informed of when changes are being considered and/or are approved by the Board of Education.

Alternatives

What alternatives were considered?

Decide

Communicate the process publicly and clearly

Board of Education is the final approver through a vote

Explain

Gather input from appropriate stakeholders such as future advisory committees

Allow time for public input for the Board of Education to consider

Planning for Success

The committee recommends District administration and the Board of Education consider these factors when changing attendance boundaries.

Desired Outcomes

- Specific to the stated reason and addresses a problem or need
- Provides flexibility to meet changing needs of a community
- Based upon long term goals to avoid frequent changes
- Driven by data and focused on student needs

- Creating ideal conditions for all students in all schools to learn
- Creating simple feeder patterns for students and families

Factors to Avoid

- Creating barriers for students and families such as reduced bus eligibility
- Decreasing operational efficiency
- Affecting neighborhood schools
- Creating complex feeder patterns that split student populations during transition years