

Overcrowding and calendar conversions How did we get here and what happens next?

KEY MESSAGE: The Clark County School District (CCSD) continues to experience ongoing population growth with no funds to build new schools. Due to the greater-than-expected enrollment growth we have experienced over the past year, CCSD has placed 61 elementary schools on the year-round watch list for the 2015-16 school year.

OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS

- CCSD is currently at an all-time high in student enrollment, with a record 319,669 students in November. That's a gain of more than 8,000 students over the past two years and an additional 1,163 students since the official count day in September 2014.
- The district grew by almost 700 elementary students in the month of October. Our elementary schools are overcrowded by an average of 15 percent. We could build 24 new elementary schools today and fill them immediately.
- The continued enrollment growth presents a number of challenges ranging from more congestion around schools to overcrowded facilities that could hinder instruction or pose potential safety concerns.

LACK OF FUNDING TO BUILD NEW SCHOOLS

- Our area is experiencing unanticipated growth and we do not currently have the resources needed to support that growth.
- We are growing throughout the entire school district – not just in areas of new development on the outskirts of the valley. Growth in older schools presents a challenge because those schools were designed to accommodate fewer students. Additionally, most developed neighborhoods do not have land available for new construction.
- After years of enrollment growth, our inventory of portable classrooms has been depleted and is no longer an adequate solution to keep up with our growth. In addition, many portables are aging and need to be replaced.
- Despite our increase in enrollment, CCSD does not have funds to build new schools. The state provides our district with funding for teachers, instructional materials and daily operational costs. It does not provide funds to build new schools or renovate old ones.
- CCSD does not have adequate resources remaining from the district's last approved bond issue in 1998 to build new schools, and authorization to issue additional bonds expired in 2008.
- In 2012 voters decided against Question 2, a ballot measure that would have built several new schools and renovated several older schools.

YEAR-ROUND CALENDAR CONVERSIONS

- CCSD has placed 61 schools on the year-round watch list for the 2015-16 school year. Last year 39 schools were on the year-round watch list, and 10 of those schools were designated year-round schools for the 2014-15 school year.
- Schools may be placed on the watch list if they: experience continued enrollment growth of five percent or more, exceed 125 percent of design capacity, and/or require more than eight portable classrooms to handle student enrollment. CCSD also looks at educational needs of schools and the capacity of nearby schools. CCSD Regulation [7124](#) outlines the process for designating year-round schools.
- With the continued growth the district is experiencing, CCSD must look at more year-round schedules and rezoning in the future. Because of our growth, rezoning options may be limited or even restricted in some areas of the valley.
- When feasible, CCSD is making program adjustments to delay conversions to a year-round calendar and to avoid rezoning wherever possible.
- Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky will make the final decisions on changing schools to year-round schedules based on growth patterns within existing school attendance boundaries.

ATTENDANCE ZONE BOUNDARIES AND THE ATTENDANCE ZONE ADVISORY COMMISSION (AZAC)

- Attendance zone boundaries for all Clark County schools are reviewed annually. This process begins in September and ends in late March. The Attendance Zone Advisory Commission (AZAC) is comprised of 15 non-paid community members who are appointed by the CCSD Board of School Trustees and the Superintendent to review attendance zones.
- AZAC members work with district staff and consider input from the public before making their recommendations to the CCSD Board of School Trustees regarding attendance zones.
- All AZAC meetings are open to the public and members of the community are welcome to provide input during public comment periods.
- The CCSD Board of School Trustees also considers public comment – along with the recommendations of AZAC and district staff – when voting on changes to school attendance zones.
- To learn more about AZAC, visit <http://azac.ccsd.net>.

THE BIG PICTURE... AND MOVING FORWARD

- Schools are not only places of learning, they are also the hubs of our neighborhoods. Decisions regarding overcrowding are not taken lightly. Our priority is to listen to parent concerns and accommodate families whenever possible.
- The public is invited to give input at Board of School Trustees meetings. Agendas for these meetings are posted at CCSD.net.
- Together as a community, we must engage in a conversation about how to deal with this growing problem of overcrowding with no additional funds provided by the state to build new schools.
- The district will support efforts in the 2015 legislative session to authorize a bond rollover in order to begin new school construction as soon as possible.