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2. Demographic Information

1. Which building do you currently work? Please check all that apply.

	Response Percent	Response Total
Clive	7.6%	20
Crestview	8%	21
Crossroads Park	5.3%	14
Fairmeadows	5.3%	14
Hillside	9.9%	26
Jordan Creek	11%	29
Phenix	3%	8
Western Hills	9.1%	24
Westridge	6.8%	18
Indian Hills	8.4%	22
Stilwell	9.5%	25
Other	25.1%	66
Total Respondents		263
(skipped this question)		1

3. Boundary Options

2. Three boundary options are still under deliberation. These options are designed to relieve enrollment overload in some schools and better utilize available space in others. You may view any of the boundary maps by clicking on their link.

In order to get back to the survey, be sure to click on the [Back](#) button of your web browser to continue the survey.

Option A2	Option A3	Option F2
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Please rate the following:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	Response Average
Option A2	27% (36)	42% (57)	19% (26)	12% (16)	2.16
Option A3	14% (19)	40% (54)	24% (33)	21% (29)	2.53
Option F2	26% (35)	29% (39)	21% (28)	24% (32)	2.43
				Total Respondents	137
				(skipped this question)	127

3. The Boundary Study Committee would like your input on the following:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Response Average
Make no boundary changes.	10% (15)	11% (16)	26% (38)	53% (77)	3.21
				Total Respondents	146
				(skipped this question)	118

4. Other options/comments:

View Total Respondents	38
(skipped this question)	226

4. Grandfathering

5. The following two grandfathering options are currently favored by the School Boundary Study Committee. Please rate the following:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	Response Average
Grandfather only students currently in grades 4 and 5; do not include younger siblings enrolled in school.	30% (41)	26% (36)	22% (31)	22% (30)	2.36
Grandfather students currently in grades 4 and 5 and include younger siblings enrolled in school.	26% (36)	23% (33)	22% (31)	29% (41)	2.55
				Total Respondents	148
				(skipped this question)	116

6. Other options for grandfathering or comments:

View Total Respondents	38
(skipped this question)	226

5. Voluntary Transfer

7. The following two voluntary transfer options are currently favored by the School Boundary Study Committee. Please rate the following:

	strongly agree	agree	disagree	strongly disagree	Response Average
Allow voluntary transfers on a case-by-case/special needs basis.	36% (50)	44% (61)	12% (16)	9% (12)	1.93
Return voluntary transfer students to their assigned neighborhood school, except those who have been in the	24% (34)	33% (46)	28% (39)	15% (21)	2.34

building for three years or more.




Total Respondents 145
(skipped this question) 119

8. Other options or comments:

View **Total Respondents** 19
(skipped this question) 245

6. Assignment Change?

9. Will your job assignment potentially change under the boundary options presently being considered?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	9.4%	14
No 	70.5%	105
Does not apply 	20.1%	30
	Total Respondents	149
	(skipped this question)	115

7. Other Comments

10. Other comments:

View **Total Respondents** 18
(skipped this question) 246

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Staff Boundary Survey

Boundary Options Comments

1. Allow students who have been previously approved to be enrolled in a school outside of their boundary to continue in that building and on into the Junior High that that school's students would attend. I believe that this should be especially so for students who have a parent on staff within the building. As a parent and staff member, having my own children at my school allows me to attend their special programs, performances, and activities. Having my children with me also allows me to be able to stay in my room and work after school hours. I can easily attend parent-teacher conferences out of the conference schedule when the conferences are being held in my own building. Allowing my children to attend the Junior High that is closet to my building allows them to walk to my school and again enables me to stay after school hours.
2. You need to do something about this and this is the right time. We have one school that is in need of students and one that has too many. This should not be such a difficult decision if you just think about that. :) It does not make any sense to do Option A3 since that would just put Western Hills with too many students and then you are having to send them off to other schools which is what you are trying to prevent in the first place.
3. First of all, you have not included any data on here about the numbers of students in each bldg. I attended a forum so have the sheet...why wasn't it included in this information? That doesn't seem right to hold back that important information. 2 of the options have WH going over 100%...how is that fixing any problems? It seems that it would be creating many more.
4. I think you need to look at this further. West Des Moines is going to loose families to other districts if you don't do it right. You want this to be long term. Take the time - get input. (I am from Crossroads Park and I don't think that got marked on the first page of this survey before I clicked next. I can't get back.)
5. The boundaries have needed to be changed for years. I realize parents will be upset when this is done. But for the good of the district as a whole, it has to be done. Thank you for doing this difficult task. I am saying this not only as a teacher but as a parent who will have kids going to a different elementary school then I had thought when I bought my house when the boundaries are changed. It is for the greater good and there isn't a school in WDM where I wouldn't send my children. They are all great schools.
6. We need to try to keep the number of students in each building as similar as possible.
7. Empty classrooms at some of the buildings makes no sense, especially when children are being capped out and sent to other buildings. Let's utilize the space we have and reduce crowding and 28 per class. Truly in a group that size, are we as effective as we can be as teachers?
8. Git'r done!
9. Obviously the maps need to be modified so that WH is not over capacity.
10. I would like to see the boundries at Crossroads stay about the same. Our school has been nearly full for the last 7 years and I really don't see a reason to mess with it if we have been at capacity. I have created a great rapport with many of our families and it is fun to see the children grow up. I think it will also be hard at the beginning of the year for benchmarking and testing. We always test the new students, but it looks like a new boundry will cause an excess of testing for special reading.
11. Our Crossroads family is just that - a strong community which is serving our students and family quite well. Any change would be disruptive to the individuals we serve.
12. I realize people do not like change, but we can't continue to have the overcrowding we have at JC and busing kids out to other schools when they should be going to JC...and leaving WH 1/2 empty.
13. If grandfathering is passed by the district it needs to have some clear boundaries. Specifically only allowing students currently enrolled in schools to be grandfathered. Any other option would really take too long to see a difference in school capacity.
14. PLEASE make the change and make our kids classrooms smaller-PLEASE!!! I keep hearing that people can see the school from their home, so they should attend there. It doesn't matter-it's a fact that smaller classes are better for learning.

15. Being a teacher at Valley we should not be as concerned. As a parent in the community I hear many parent groups talk. The most conversation I have been hearing is regarding Country Club students going to Crossroads instead of Crestview. The other topic is parents at Jordan Creek want their children to be in a neighborhood school.
16. I am supportive of whatever decision is made. Children will adjust, more often better than adults do.
17. People need to be made aware of the fact that there are buildings with empty classrooms while other buildings are over crowded. Boundary changes need to be made in the best interest of our students! Any plan that puts learning first would be a welcome change.
18. Western Hills is half full, yet Jordan Creek is overflowing. There are children being bused by other school buildings to get to Crestview. If we are TRULY concerned for our children, we have no choice than to re-do the boundries. It shouldn't be that big of a deal - the curriculum is the same in each building. Parents, teachers and administrators have got to understand that we are leaders in learning - no matter what school we're talking about.
19. I think the inequity in class size between some buildings is something that needs to be addressed.
20. I feel that changing the boundaries in any way that would help schools who are continually capped out in each grade level would be a great improvement. As it stands, some classrooms are sitting empty, which is not productively utilizing the space of our public school classrooms.
21. I don't feel that our building needs changes. I do, however, feel that buildings of high numbers or few students do need to have changes (i.e. Clive, Jordan Creek, Western Hills, Westridge)
22. Look at making the boundary changes in 2008-2009 instead of 2007-2008 so "new" schools can work with current schools to "welcome" incoming students as a result of the changes. Do events together etc to build a feeling of belonging.
23. The Maps don't really help me. need an explanation of each
24. I would like the boundries to balance the schools. I am indifferent as to where the boundries fall.
25. I think as a district we need to be proactive, unfortunately, we are being reactive. It is time to make a change, regardless of opinions. This is about our children learning to be flexible, and adapt to change. As a parent, and a teacher, the change will be accepted positively or negatively depending on how it is presented to them by their parents and teachers. We need to work together, not push diversity away!!!
26. Balance the amount of students in classes at each school. If there are empty classrooms, then fill them up.
27. Please do not build a new school - or spend money expanding an existing school. The room is there - it just needs to be reallocated.
28. Have we considered usage of space versus total enrollment. At Clive it appears class size will be larger but all plans may have very limited impact on section numbers and usage of space.
29. Much smaller boundary changes than those selected above.
30. The space at Western Hills really needs to be more utilized. Neighborhood children should be able to go to their neighborhood school.
31. I think a change definitely needs to be done!!!!I understand that people are going to angry no matter what. No one likes change especially when it deals with their children. Changing the boundaries have to happen sometime so why not do it now and get it over with.
32. Please try to make the boundary changes so that we can still retain most of the students we have at our school now. I agree with trying to make each school run at a more equal occupancy. Is there a way to do that without displacing so many students?
33. needs to be done

34. I am supportive of the boundary changes. It does not seem right or fair to have some classes full with 26 students and other same grade level classes elsewhere in the district with 14 kids. It is not what's best for kids...or staff.
35. What about doing nothing for 6 years and then merging 2 small schools into one newly built building - exactly what Rex and Clegg did several years ago. Wouldn't this make sense, as population continues to decrease. None of my neighbors go to WDM schools - My neighborhood is a straight shot to St. Francis Catholic and Iowa Christian Academy.
36. The maps alone make it difficult to determine how the changes will effect different schools/families. Looking at numbers was more helpful.
37. It is very unfair to students and staff to keep the current situation. There are buildings that have very small classes or empty rooms and our school is often overflowing. It would be better for students in the long run to even out class sizes. Also (and yes this is selfish), it seems unfair that I get paid the same as someone else who has 8-10 fewer students. The work load is no equal. My real goal is for every teacher to have fewer students. It's better for everyone in the long run.
38. Maybe just tweak the boudaries until all schools are remodeled.

Staff Boundary Survey

Grandfathering Comments

1. Allow students who have been previously approved to attend a building outside of their boundary to continue in that building and then onto the Junior High that those students would attend. I believe that staff should be allowed to have their own children attend the school in which they teach if they desire.
2. If possible.
3. As a mother, I cannot imagine being able to be loyal and supportive to 2 different schools that my own children attend. They should have the option of staying or going. We spend 7 years in the elementary system so staying in the same one does make a difference.
4. You would need to include siblings and that may even include those not enrolled yet. Families need to stay together.
5. Grandfather only the current fifth graders and their siblings for one year only. Once the current fifth grader graduates, move all siblings to their designated school.
6. Who will have priority, the students being grandfathered in or the students within the new boundaries? If classes are full, who will have to move to a different school?
7. Don't offer any grandfathering.
8. How many years will it take to get to the status we desire if we grandfather younger siblings? Use this as an encouragement to accept the change for the entire family.
9. If you grandfather any students what is the point of boundary changes for the first 2 years?
10. None
11. I would like to see a liberal Grandfathering policy be put in place for students currently in the schools. This could all just be moved to Voluntary Transfers so that you would be sure to have space for kids scheduled to be in a boundary area. I also think it's important to not revoke a student's current VT/Resident status.
12. I would want my kids at the same school, but would this still throw off the numbers for the schools?
13. Grandfather 5th grade student only.
14. Just change! What a great way for them to know more kids and will know more faces in JR High.
15. If the boundary changes do indeed take place, I would hope that all current students would be grandfathered. Again, any other change would be too disruptive to their educational, social and emotional well-being.
16. would it be discrimination to grandfather those families who have only one younger sibling ...for financial purposes only...if they have more than one sibling, cost wise it would take longer to make the transition..leaving all those families and allowing them to stay wouldn't really be solving any of the overcrowding issues.
17. I don't love the idea of Grandfathering but I don't see any other way to make parents and families happy!
18. change is good for everyone. I say make the whole family change would be easier for everyone.
19. I understand that students have emotional ties to their school. We seem to spend a lot of time on "school spirit". But if parents are positive about the move, students should have little problem transitioning to a new school, especially if the other children in their neighborhood are their also.
20. If you continue to allow grandfathering and open enrollment the problem will not be solved

21. Grandfather any student already started in a school with no transportation provided. Younger siblings are not included in this at all, just the student already in a school.
22. Change it for everyone or change it for no one, exceptions are asking for trouble. If whole neighborhoods are being moved, no child will be going somewhere where they know no one.
23. Isn't it the grandfathering that got us into this mess in the first place?!
24. Clear guidelines will need to be set that will be used district wide. Problems will arise if exceptions are made for just a few people.
25. No grandfathering
26. If we are trying to alleviate overcrowding in schools, then grandfathering will not ease the overcrowding and you will still have children capped out of their "neighborhood" school.
27. All students at the school currently should be allowed to stay at that school through 6th grade.
28. I believe grandfathering should be completely dropped.
29. No grandfathering should occur, and transportation should not be provided if a student does not qualify with the new boundaries.
30. If we grandfather younger students, what are we actually going to be changing? I am a parent of a kindergartener and fifth grader. We learn to roll with the punches.
31. It ends up being a barrier to boundary changes and defeats the entire purpose/process, I believe.
32. Keeping families together should be a priority. I think this makes sense for our customers.
33. Only current 5th graders and their siblings
34. It would be hard for parents to drop children off at two different schools. I would suggest keeping kids together.
35. By grandfathering children in, that opens up even more issues. . . I understand why parents (and students) would want that to happen. (As a teacher, that would be nice so I could keep the kids I have gotten to know the past 6 years.) Grandfathering defeats the purpose of drawing new boundaries if we are trying to put each school at an even capacity.
36. Please allow grandfathering - it will only take a few years and the parents will remain happy.
37. I would prefer to see everyone just make the move.
38. I think there should be grandfathering for incoming sixth graders only - no siblings.

Staff Boundary Survey

Voluntary Transfer Comments

1. So voluntary transfers may stay but siblings of older students may not? HHHmmmmmm
2. Return all voluntary transfers to their assigned school, except for current fifth graders and their siblings. Siblings would then move once the current fifth grader graduates.
3. Either option works for me. I only hope that we remain consistent throughout the District once a decision is made. Exceptions are hard to accept if you are one that is denied an opportunity.
4. Discontinue all voluntary transfers.
5. If we are going to make a boundary change, then make it. Keep the transfers to a minimum. The kids who live by their neighborhood school should be the ones to go to that school.
6. Voluntary transfers should not take precedence over students who physically live within the school's existing boundaries.
7. I say wipe the slate clean and send them all back to their homeschools and then do the voluntary transfer process over again.
8. I feel strongly that children should attend their neighborhood schools unless there is a very unusual circumstance for them not to. I think the trend toward "school shopping" needs to stop. If parents want a certain school they should live in that area.
9. see previous comment
10. If we allow voluntary transfers is there going to be space for new students who move into the attendance area?
11. If a child/family chooses to voluntarily transfer and there is space at the building in which they choose to attend, I think it should be allowed. However, they should not be allowed to bump someone that actually lives near the school.
12. No voluntary transfers to a building that is over the set %.
13. All students should be sent to their home school. No exceptions. That option was not given for this point.
14. I also would like it to be a possibility for teacher's children to attend the school that their parent is a teacher. For example, my child lives in the Crestview attendance area, but I teach at Fairmeadows. I would like for my child to be able to attend Fairmeadows.
15. If there is room, then allow voluntary transfers; however, if there is limited room, don't allow VT to take up space needed by incoming students within the boundary area.
16. Exceptions should be made for siblings of special programs (Level II, ESL, etc.) I also think the committee should consider the large impact this would have on the populations of buildings. Clive's population is currently largely dependent on our voluntary transfers. This would have a big impact.
17. Do not allow voluntary transfers on a case-by-case basis! The parents at this school are already asking to fill out the forms to transfer to here! This again defeats the purpose of drawing new boundaries. Either we draw new boundaries and live with the consequences, or we create new boundary options. We can not start making exceptions, because they will never end and it will never be fair to everyone.
18. I think it is important to consider the siblings of those students that are special needs (needing to be in a specific building due to special programming) as a top priority for voluntary transfers with of course the special needs student having the utmost priority for a voluntary transfer spot.
19. As a WDM resident and as a WDM employee, I would like my children to attend the school I teach at. I would like special consideration given to teachers and where their children attend school. IF the district would allow special cases (such as teacher's children attending the school they teach at) to be granted it would allow me to attend conferences, special events, and be available for my children's needs. I would like to see this idea be given some serious thought!!!

Staff Boundary Survey

Other Comments

1. Make sure you do what is BEST for the district as a whole and the schools. Even though I am also a parent in this district (as well as a teacher) the school district and committee should be making this decision--NOT THE ANGRY PARENTS WHO DON'T WANT THEIR KIDS MOVING SCHOOLS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
2. Before asking for people to take a survey, make all of the information available to them.
3. Go slow.
4. I hope the hours at Crestview remain as they are today!
5. Please, please, please do not rush into any changes. I believe that sufficient studies have not been performed. It is quite apparent that the overwhelming majority of parents and students are opposed to the current boundary proposals.
6. thanks to the committee for all their hard work...I believe something has to be done. We have waited long enough to ponder this. I worry about sending parents to schools they don't want to be at...how can we make the transition smoother?
7. The information provided on the survey is insufficient to make an informed decision. Additional information, such as net results on each building, population densities, and area demographic projections, is required to develop a legitimate opinion.
8. I believe all adults, parents and staff, need to make the effort to be positive about the changes. Change is scary, but it can be exciting as well. The children will follow our lead as we face the changes and challenges ahead. I hope parents will keep that in mind as they talk about this issue. Even if they are not happy, it does the child no good to know that.
9. The district needs to make these changes. It is crazy that we have empty classrooms at at least 2-3 of our schools. Wouldn't it be in the BEST interest for students to have a consistent staff as they attend their school years rather than having them bounce all around??? Also, if it is possible for smaller class sizes by adding a few sections here or there it is ABSOLUTELY worth it for our student achievement goals.
10. It is nice for kids to stay in a building where they have developed a connection.
11. I think boundary changes should be strongly considered. It is best for our students in almost every circumstance. Thank you.
12. the sooner the better.
13. Set boundaries and adhere to them. Watch class size. Some schools have had low enrollments for years while others carry the burden of high numbers.
14. I don't think there should be a change. We will lose a lot of great families and parents that participate in our PFC.
15. We have a big, beautiful school with empty classrooms. Let's fill them up!
16. I would like to see this happen and be implemented by fall of 2007. You are NOT going to please everyone, so just suck it up and do it. I think that you have done a fine job of communicating - you can beat this to death, you know.
17. Do what is good for the children. Please try to make the boundary lines as fair and as consistent as possible. If it is possible that we could keep the majority of the students we already have in our school, that would be better. I have gotten to know some of the kids (AND their families) for over six years, and I hate to lose those relationships.
18. How do I find out if my job is going to change? That hasn't been communicated as a possibility has it?