



MSDWT Enrollment Rebalancing FAQ COMPASS (High Ability Program)

Q. Why does the District believe it is necessary to add an additional COMPASS location?

- A. In order to minimize the number of students requiring transportation to COMPASS locations, the District is recommending that the new Clearwater Elementary serve as a fourth COMPASS location. (The current COMPASS locations include Allisonville, Crooked Creek, and Fox Hill).

Q. What schools does the District administration current recommend as COMPASS locations?

- A. The District administration's recommendation has changed over the course of the Enrollment Rebalancing Process. We currently are recommending Allisonville, Clearwater, Crooked Creek and Fox Hill as the COMPASS locations beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

The final decision regarding COMPASS locations will be provided as part of the May 9, 2018 recommendations to the School Board.

Q. Why did the District change the recommendation of moving the Fox Hill COMPASS program to Spring Mill?

- A. Even though Spring Mill is a more centralized location within the District, the administration reviewed the enrollment patterns of the students qualifying for COMPASS over a four-year period. When reviewing that data, there is no obvious and clear way to determine if moving the program would benefit the number of families impacted by transportation. Additionally, there is no way to confidently predict that a move of the current Fox Hill location would benefit District Transportation by providing shorter and more efficient routing options.

Q. Will the COMPASS locations beginning in 2019-2020 be permanent?

- A. The District understands the importance of families connecting with their children's school. Therefore, the COMPASS locations should not change so often that these important connections are interrupted.

However, COMPASS locations, like attendance boundaries are difficult to make permanent. Enrollment patterns change over time in all school districts. When enrollment patterns change, districts must determine if boundaries and locations of special programs must be altered. The MSDWT will monitor all Enrollment Rebalancing decisions over time, and follow the same process, including research and gathering stakeholder input, before making changes.

Q. Will current COMPASS teachers continue teaching COMPASS in new locations?

- A. The District Human Resources Division will develop, over the next several months, a process to address the movement of elementary teaching staff as part of the opening of new schools.