



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. Has the District made a final decision to move the Fox Hill COMPASS location to Spring Mill in 2019-2020?

A. No. The information presented for stakeholder feedback (through the online survey and in person meetings) includes a recommendation to relocate the Fox Hill COMPASS location to Spring Mill. The administration will review all input and continue to monitor enrollment patterns when making a final determination.

The final determination of new attendance boundaries will also factor in the COMPASS location decision. The final decision regarding COMPASS locations will be provided as part of the spring 2018 recommendations to the School Board.

Q. Why is the District recommending the Fox Hill COMPASS location change to Spring Mill in 2019-2020?

A. The more centralized location provides the District the ability to transport students to COMPASS locations more efficiently. Currently, several bus routes, servicing very few students and covering long distances within the District is required. Parents have consistently voiced concerns regarding the distances of COMPASS bus routes. While not all situations requiring long COMPASS routes can be improved, a more central location makes solutions more likely.

When the final recommendation for attendance boundaries is established, the District will examine COMPASS locations and attempt to make a decision that impacts the least number of students.

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.