



FAQ:

Elementary School Attendance Line Adjustments for August 2022

Information presented to the
School Board of Trustees
June 13, 2022

Questions and Answers

Q: Why are you adjusting attendance lines?

Three elementary schools (Sunset Park Elementary School of Advanced Studies, Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School of Inquiry, and Northside Elementary School of Arts) are experiencing significant growth and overcrowding. These schools have encountered growth in enrollment this school year and if the schools continues to grow, we will be well above capacity for a safe learning environment. Additionally, we want to make sure all our students can experience academic success, and we want to make sure their individual needs can be met – swelling class sizes make that difficult to meet that standard. Safety and security are our top priorities, and we want to ensure we are able to safely address emergency situations should they arise.

Q: Why was my neighborhood chosen?

There were several aspects taken into consideration when choosing the attendance segments to adjust the lines. To impact the fewest number of students, we considered the proximity of locations of the schools in neighboring segments. When examining the attendance area, the segments in the area chosen met that criteria. Segments are not any one neighborhood, but more of a geographical area that sometimes includes part of a neighborhood and in other cases includes one or more neighborhoods. Transportation routes were also a consideration.

Q: My child is in a choice program.

These changes do not impact students enrolled in a choice program for the 2022-23 school year. Every effort was made to identify School of Choice students and they should not have received a letter. If a student has accepted a SOC placement for 2022-23 and they received a letter, please reach out to our Student Services department.

Questions and Answers

Q: Do these changes impact the current middle and high school attendance zones.

A: No, they do not. Our elementary, middle and high school attendance zones are created independent of each other.

Q: How often are adjustments made to attendance zones?

A: The last adjustments made to elementary zones were during the 2020-21 school year and took effect in 2021-22. Prior to then, zones were adjusted in 2009 for the 2009-2010 school year.

Q: My child is going into fifth grade and wants to stay at their current school. What are my options?

A: Any fifth grade student who wishes to remain at the school where they were assigned during the 2021-2022 school year may “grandfather” in to stay at the school they are currently at by filling out a Hardship Transfer form: <https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Domain/825> - Transportation will not be provided by the school district.

Q: My fifth grader has a sibling(s), and I want my fifth grader to remain at their school and the younger sibling(s) to attend this school also.

A: Siblings are eligible to stay for the upcoming school year. Families will have to fill out a Hardship Transfer form for each sibling individually. This form was included with your notification. It can also be found on the district website under Student Services: <https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/Domain/825>

Q: When will I know if my child is impacted by any adjustments in elementary school attendance lines?

A: Families of students effected by a change in attendance lines will receive an e-mail no later than Thursday, June 16, and a letter will also be mailed through the US Postal Service on Wednesday, June 15.

Questions and Answers

Q: Why did you all wait so long to tell us?

The district has been working on ways to alleviate the overcrowding at these schools and, if necessary, move as few students as possible. Our planning department has worked through many scenarios to minimize movement but could not have predicted the growth each of these schools have experienced during this school year.

Q: Did the board vote on this?

The board is not required to vote on this issue. However, they were able to see the presentation at the June 13 meeting and ask questions.

Q: Why don't you open one of the closed schools?

A: Opening a closed school will require district-wide rezoning. This plan for alignment allows time for the superintendent and team to develop a long-range plan for attendance and growth in Rock Hill Schools.

Q: I registered my child for KinderCamp and now my child is required to change schools. Which school should we go to?

A: Please email Katie Barber (kwbarber@rhmail.org) and she will adjust your registration to reflect the newly assigned school.