

Frequently Asked Questions – School Boundaries Brookings School District May 2, 2016

Below is a list of several frequently asked questions related to the Brookings School District boundaries.

1. Why were boundary changes necessary?

The Brookings School District continues to experience enrollment growth. In a recent study conducted by the District in cooperation with the South Dakota State Demographer, the future enrollment projections continue to indicate that the District will grow. School boundaries have to change from time to time in order to populate new schools and to alleviate overcrowding at existing campuses.

2. What are some alternatives to changing school boundaries?

When and if practical, the District may:

- Cap campus enrollment sending subsequently enrolling students to another campus with surplus capacity
- Build an addition to the facility
- Build additional campus facilities

3. When a boundary change is necessary, what principles guide its development?

We take many factors into consideration when defining an attendance area. Since managing enrollment growth is our primary concern, we first look at:

- campus growth projections and capacity
- feeder patterns
- community unity (i.e., not splitting a neighborhood)
- geographic proximity
- frequency of change for students
- program accommodations and student needs
- cost effectiveness

4. Who determines when and where boundary changes are needed?

The District gathers enrollment data including attendance patterns and growth patterns of the community. Working collectively with an appointed School Boundary Advisory Committee, cabinet officials develop plan options and review the plans with the Superintendent and the community and decide on an Administrative recommendation for the Board of Education.

5. What is the process for making boundary changes?

The superintendent will develop a School Boundary Advisory Committee. The committee will apply a process resulting in a recommendation on boundary changes to present to the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

6. Who is part of the School Boundary Advisory Committee (SBAC)?

The SBAC is a committee composed of two patrons from each elementary school attendance area in Brookings School District, two cabinet representatives, and two representatives from the Brookings School District board of education. The SBAC membership is approved by the Superintendent. Members are parents of elementary, middle or high school-age students. To maintain continuity from each attendance area, members normally serve overlapping two-year terms. District employees are not eligible.

7. Once approved, do boundary changes apply to all students?

Yes. The Brookings School District assigns students to schools according to the street address where the student resides. Once the Board approves a boundary, it applies to all students living within the attendance zone with the following exceptions.

Exceptions when opening a new school:

- Elementary School: The year a boundary change goes into effect; current elementary aged students may remain at their former school. This rule applies on a student basis, not a family basis. For example, if a family has a child in the 2nd grade at Hillcrest, but resides in the Medary attendance area, the child may remain at Hillcrest while siblings who are beginning school in the next school year and beyond shall be required to attend the Medary school.

8. Which school will my child attend?

[Click here](#) to see a map with the District boundaries. For additional information or to check a specific address, please call the District Office.

9. Can my child attend a school other than his/her assigned school?

District policy regarding Intra-district Open Enrollment is as follows:

- As stated in Policy JECC “Student Assignment and Attendance Areas”:
Intra-district transfers will only be allowed if extenuating circumstances exist. This must be approved by the superintendent and it must be shown that this transfer is in the best interest of the student and district. No intra-district transfer request will be granted if the requested school’s student-to-teacher ratio exceeds eighteen (18) students to one (1) teacher.
- For more information please contact the District Office.

10. What determines which school a child should attend?

The Brookings School District is divided into attendance areas for elementary schools. The Brookings School District Policy Manual reads, in part, as follows:

A student’s residence, as used to determine the assigned attendance area, is the residence of the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian. If the student’s parents have separate residences, the residence to be used is the one the student is present at for the majority for the school year.

Students who live within the attendance boundary of a school do not need to submit an application to apply to that school. However, parents must be able to provide appropriate proof of residency for enrollment.

11. There are maps of school attendance area boundaries available on this web site. Can I use those maps to determine which school my child should attend or whether property is within the Brookings School District?

The maps on the District web pages are intended to provide a general representation of where school attendance area boundaries are located. These maps are not intended to be used for commercial purposes or transactions. Please call the District Office at (605)-696-4700 to determine which school a child should attend or whether property is within the Brookings School District.

12. What are attendance areas?

The school district is divided into attendance areas, assigning certain specific addresses to attend specific schools. The intent is to adhere as closely as possible to the neighborhood school concept in establishing attendance areas. The Superintendent or designee shall use the legal residence of the student's parent/guardian as a student's designated attendance area. If the parent/guardian moves to a different attendance area, the student shall transfer to the appropriate school during the next school year.

13. I live outside the Brookings School District. Can my child attend school in the Brookings School District?

The District's open enrollment policy allows out-of-district students to attend the Brookings School District upon approval of the school board. For further details and an application, [click here](#). Students who are open enrolled shall be assigned an attendance center based on available capacity and space.