

SUN PRAIRIE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR GRADES 6–12



Dear SPASD Community,

It has been great to have more students in our schools over the past few weeks. Our staff are balancing virtual and in-person learning during a pandemic and ever-changing public orders. In addition, our District and community continue to make progress on committees that are integral to the opening of Sun Prairie West High School and shifting to three 6–8 middle schools in the fall of 2022. The Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force (SBBTTF) has been meeting since September and has completed the boundary part of their charge. Their recommendation was accepted by the Board of Education on February 22, 2021, and the new boundaries will take effect at the start of the 2022–2023 school year.

With the accepted recommendation, school attendance boundaries have shifted, and there are some changes that we want you as community members to be aware of. This communication includes some background on the work that led to these changes, a map for you to identify the schools that your neighborhood will attend, and answers to some frequently asked questions. Thank you to the task force, community, and all District employees who engaged in this important work!

Bryn Horton, School Board Member & Task Force Co-Chair
Janet Rosseter, Assistant Superintendent of Operations & Task Force Co-Chair

CHARGE OF THE SECONDARY BOUNDARY AND BELL TIME TASK FORCE

The School Board created an ad hoc Secondary Boundary and Bell Time Task Force. The citizen-based group consists of School District residents serving in an advisory capacity to the administration and School Board. The task force will review data and create and present a recommendation for School Board consideration, deliberation, and subsequent action for enrollment boundaries that will be effective September 1, 2022, after the District completes referendum projects that add an additional high school and an additional middle school. Then the task force will transition to a bell time study, reviewing bell times at the elementary, middle, and high school levels for any individual or group bell time adjustments that may be advantageous for operational, student behavioral, safety, and/or fiscal reasons. **To view the complete charge for the task force, please visit the SBBTTF webpage: sunprairieschools.org/district/ref2019/boundary-task-force**

PRIMARY CRITERIA DETERMINED BY BOARD

EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS & RACIAL COMPOSITION

CRITERIA GENERATED BY TASK FORCE & APPROVED BY BOARD

TRANSPORTATION
TIME, COST &
PROXIMITY

STARTING ENROLLMENTS/
RESOURCES REASONABLY
BALANCED

LONGEVITY /
SUSTAINABILITY OF
BOUNDARIES

STUDENT COHORT &
NEIGHBORHOOD CONTINUITY
FROM ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE
TO HIGH SCHOOL

The task force used evaluation criteria to guide their boundary work: one primary criteria that was determined by the Board of Education, and four secondary criteria that were determined by the task force and then approved by the Board.

10 FORMAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
BOUNDARY OPTIONS



5 MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
PAIRING OPTIONS

fully vetted by the task force

Close to 50 more options were informally explored but did not move forward due to not meeting one or more of the evaluation criteria.



500+

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SURVEY RESPONSES
considered over the course of the secondary boundaries work

13

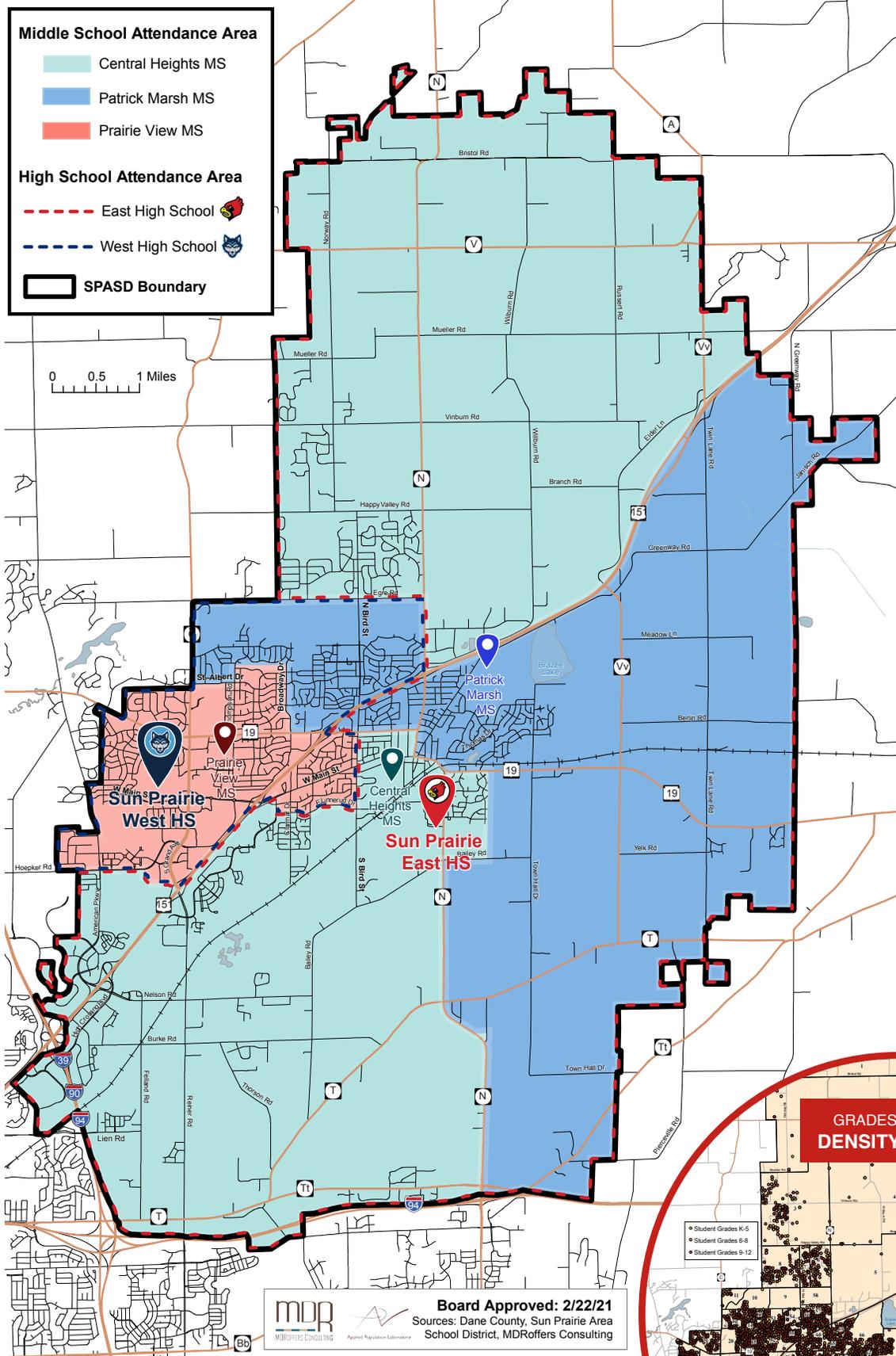
TASK FORCE MEETINGS
(from 9/16/2020 to 3/17/2021)



1,110+

HOURS INVESTED
by the task force

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS (Effective Sept. 1, 2022)



At the February 22, 2021, School Board meeting, the Board unanimously approved the SBBTFF's recommendation of option D4a (map above) for secondary boundaries. This option best meets the primary criteria of equitable distribution of socioeconomic status and racial composition, as well as all of the other evaluation criteria. Some other key highlights of option D4a include:

- Only one middle school (Patrick Marsh) sends students to both high schools, and does so equitably on east/west lines.
- This is the best option for minimizing the number of K-5 students separated from some peers at both transitions (~10%).
- This option respects neighborhood boundaries and creates opportunities for continued growth as a united community.
- This option will allow for the District to grow equitably into the future.
- Consensus of the task force: 70% chose D4a as their final option, and 91% voted to recommend to the School Board.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WILL FAMILIES LIVING IN THE DISTRICT HAVE A CHOICE IN WHAT SCHOOL THEIR CHILD/REN WILL ATTEND?

The School Board approved a recommendation from the Student Migration Planning Team on October 28, 2019, that 100% of District students will transition to their boundary area school at the start of the 2022–2023 school year. Given the amount of change required to implement the new boundaries, grandfathering options will not be offered. According to District policy, there is no “voluntary placement” option for families to choose a school other than their boundary area school. School assignments will be based on the student’s residence.



THE BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR ALL THREE MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE LISTED AS THE SAME. IS THE GOAL TO KEEP THEM AT SIMILAR ENROLLMENT AND CAPACITIES? DOES CARDINAL HEIGHTS HAVE ADDITIONAL CAPACITY FOR GROWTH?

Yes, the goal is to keep all three middle schools at the same capacity with similar enrollment. While Cardinal Heights is a larger building, it will be housing multiple distinct entities, including Central Heights Middle School, Prairie Phoenix Academy, a Professional Learning Center, and the Employee Wellness Clinic.



WHY CAN'T ALL STUDENTS ATTEND THEIR CLOSEST SCHOOL?

The west side of our District is more densely populated than the rest of the District (see SPASD Student Density Heat Maps). This most directly impacts those living closer to Sun Prairie West High School and Prairie View Middle School. Placing students at their geographically closest schools would result in a severe enrollment imbalance between the three middle schools and would put Prairie View at capacity on day one of the new boundaries. Additionally, the “equitable distribution of socio-economic status and racial composition” criterion would not be met. Finally, placing all students at their geographically closest school would result in more cohort splits (five elementary schools would send their students to two middle schools, and C. H. Bird would split to all three). Imbalanced enrollment, socio-economic and racial inequities, and more cohort splitting are also issues at the high school level.



HOW DOES THE DISTRICT PLAN TO ADDRESS AND ASSIGN STUDENTS WHO LIVE OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT AND APPLY FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT?

Acceptance through the state open enrollment program is not a guarantee. Open enrollment requests can be made to the District but not for a specific school. Although a school preference may be specified, factors considered when the District accepts and places students include school space, availability, class size, growth, and proximity for those areas that border our District. In the end, we want to make sure that our open enrollment process has procedure integrity.



WHAT IS THE TRANSITION PLAN?

We recognize that a smooth transition plan is important to our families. Our comprehensive plan will be available in the spring of 2022.

PRIMARY CRITERIA I DETERMINED BY BOARD

- EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS & RACIAL COMPOSITION**

	MIDDLE SCHOOL			HIGH SCHOOL	
	Central Heights	Patrick Marsh	Prairie View	Sun Prairie East	Sun Prairie West
Free/Reduced Lunch %	~34%	~33%	~31%	~27%	~29%
Students of Color %	~40%	~38%	~45%	~29%	~38%
Smallest Racial Group	~47 Students	~43 Students	~46 Students	~66 Students	~85 Students

SECONDARY CRITERIA I GENERATED BY TASK FORCE & APPROVED BY BOARD

- TRANSPORTATION TIME, COST & PROXIMITY**

	MIDDLE SCHOOL			HIGH SCHOOL	
	Central Heights	Patrick Marsh	Prairie View	Sun Prairie East	Sun Prairie West
0–3 min Travel Time to School	6%	6%	37%	10%	23%
4–6 min Travel Time to School	28%	50%	62%	38%	57%
7–10 min Travel Time to School	52%	43%	1%	39%	20%
11–15 min Travel Time to School	14%	1%	0%	13%	0%
Walking Zone Students Assigned to School	37%	100%	100%	100%	100%

- STARTING ENROLLMENTS/RESOURCES REASONABLY BALANCED**

Year 2022 Projected Enrollment	588	596	629	1,258	1,252
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- LONGEVITY/SUSTAINABILITY OF BOUNDARIES**

Year 2025 Projected Enrollment	651	594	657	1,263	1,298
Year 2030 Projected Enrollment	738	648	702	1,339	1,341
Year 2035 Projected Enrollment	835	699	695	1,470	1,387
Building Capacity Range (Targeted - Max)	725–853	725–853	725–853	1,658–2,073	1,658–2,073

- STUDENT COHORT & NEIGHBORHOOD CONTINUITY FROM ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL**

Central Heights	MIDDLE SCHOOL		HIGH SCHOOL
	Patrick Marsh	Prairie View	
Creekside, Meadow View, Northside, Token Springs & Westside	Eastside & Northside		Sun Prairie East
	C. H. Bird & Token Springs	Horizon, Meadow View, Royal Oaks & Westside	Sun Prairie West



Sun Prairie Area
School District
Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

SBBTTF | Bell Time Analysis

Effective March 3, 2021, the task force transitioned its efforts to bell time analysis. Given the operational nature of bell times, criteria will be informed by administrative guidance, and the proposed evaluation criteria and proposed solution will be submitted to District administration for their discussion, potential modification, and acceptance.

GET INVOLVED! COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT ON APRIL 15TH AT 6PM

Join us for a community engagement opportunity about bell times and potential factors that may have an impact on the District and community. This event will take place via Zoom.

(RSVP will be required. Look for registration information closer to the date of the event.)



There will be two methods for you to provide feedback on bell times:

- (1) Watch the pre-recorded presentation that will be shared publicly in advance, and then answer the survey.
- (2) Attend the engagement event for a live presentation, participate in small-group breakouts for question/answer, and then answer the survey.



boundaries@sunprairieschools.org



sunprairieschools.org/district/ref2019/boundary-task-force

Learn More!

View the **SBBTTF webpage** for more information on the recommendation, Board presentation, and maps.

Bryn Horton, Task Force Co-Chair
(School Board Clerk)

Janet Rosseter, Task Force Co-Chair
(Assistant Superintendent of Operations)

Andrea Anderson, Task Force Coordinator
(Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Operations)

