



# Initial District Recommendation on Elementary School Closures and Boundary Adjustments

November 20, 2023



## Presentation Overview

- District Vision
- Population and Boundary Study Process
- Recommendations on School Closures and Rationale
- Recommendations on Boundary Changes and Rationale
- Placement of Special District Programs
- Initial Transition Overview
- Questions from the Board



# District Vision



**Salt Lake City School District will be the  
flagship district in the state**





## Our aim is to build vibrant learning communities and use resources efficiently for student learning

- Our K-6 population is decreasing
- Elementary enrollment is at 9,300 with room for 15,000
- Students are better served in a robust learning community
- Funds can be redirected from buildings costs to student learning



# Population and Boundary Study Process



# Timeline

Feb  
2023

Board vote to study all 27 elementary schools for potential boundary change and possible closure

July 2023

- Boundary Options Committee recommended, and Board approved, seven schools to further study for potential school closure
  - Emerson Elementary
  - Hawthorne Elementary
  - Mary W. Jackson Elementary
  - M. Lynn Bennion Elementary
  - Newman Elementary
  - Riley Elementary
  - Wasatch Elementary
- Board approved the further study of all elementary school boundaries for possible adjustments
- Further study period, including community meetings

July–Nov  
2023



## Foundational Decisions

1. Closing all schools identified for further study presents too many challenges.
2. Our aim is to close more schools rather than fewer.
3. Given school proximity, it is not in the best interest of students to close two schools in the same area of the city.
4. Student safety and maintaining walkable neighborhood schools are priorities.





## Foundational Decisions, continued

5. Special district programs will be placed equitably throughout the district to create greater access for students and families.
6. At most, one special district program will be located at any given elementary school.
7. The district will provide busing to special district programs if students live more than 1.5 miles from their assigned school.
8. All current faculty and staff of impacted schools will be offered equivalent employment opportunities within the district in the event of school closure.



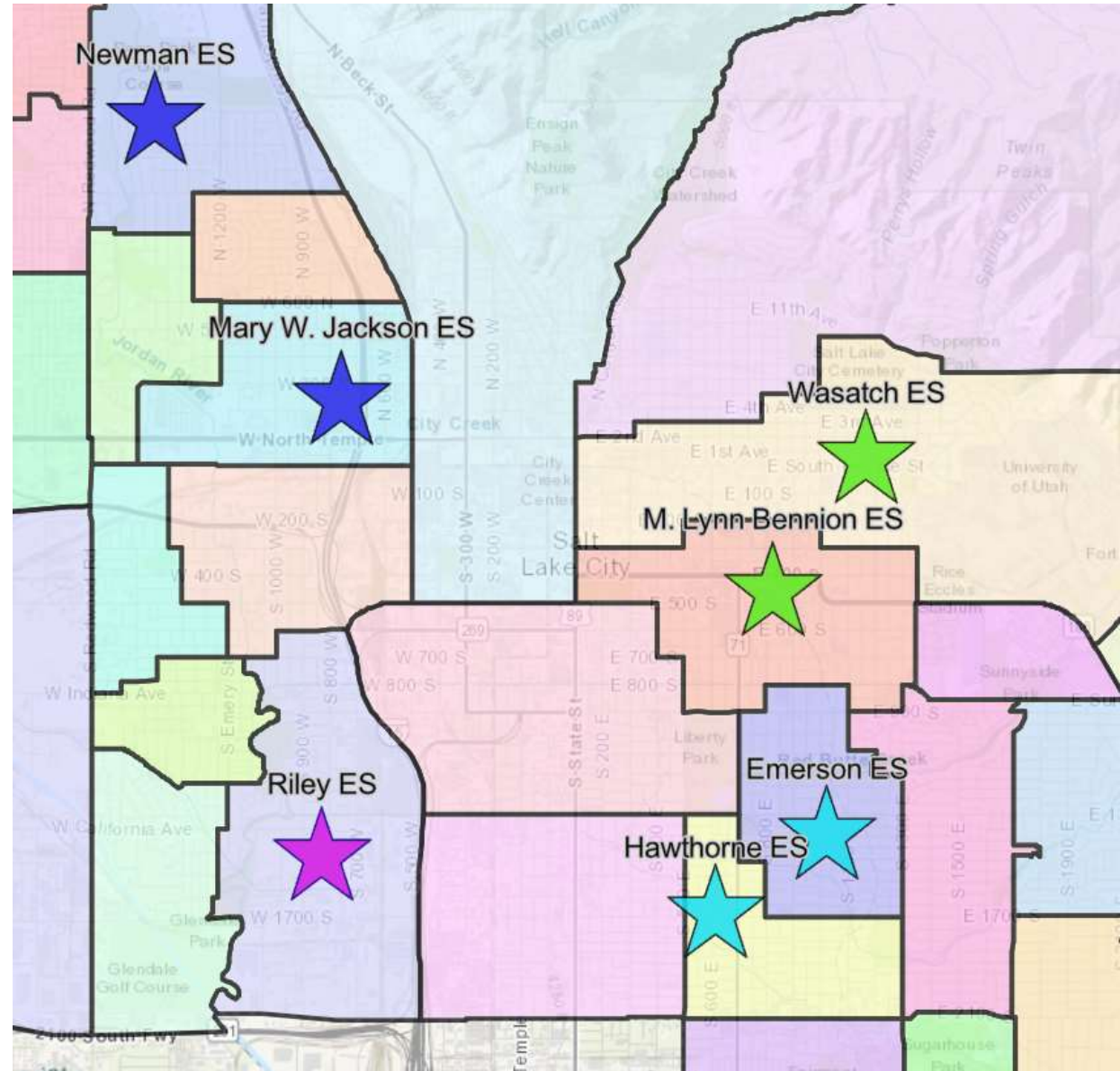
## Implications of Foundational Decisions

- We will not recommend closure of all seven schools.
- We recommend closing as many schools as feasible.
- We studied schools in close proximity as pairs and recommend one of the two schools in each pair for closure.
- We worked to create walkable schools and limit the number of students crossing major thoroughfares.
- We will locate special district programs to provide better access for students and families.



## How we studied schools

- Newman and Mary W. Jackson
- M. Lynn Bennion and Wasatch
- Emerson and Hawthorne
- Riley





# Gathered and Evaluated Additional Data (datasheet available on our website)

2. Proximity and availability of neighborhood school														
<p>Salt Lake City uses the term "state arterial" to describe major thoroughfares. The State arterial (major thoroughfare) near schools are State Street, 700 East, Foothill Drive, 400 South - east of 15, and Redwood Road. Major thoroughfares may impact students' safety as they travel to school.</p> <p>State law requires bus transportation for students who live more than 1.5 miles from the school in elementary or determined by state formula.</p>			<p>State law requires each school to have a safe walking route. Routes must be designed and approved each year.</p> <p>A 1-mile radius provides an approximation of the number of students who live within walking distance of a school regardless of the current boundary configuration. Students are provided a bus if they live more than 1.5 miles from the front door of their home to the school property. This is based on a driving route, not a straight line or the crow fly.</p> <p>Students, one parent/guardian per family, and faculty/staff are provided free UTA bus pass, making public transportation a choice that some families may make.</p>									<p>Geographical features, natural boundaries, environmental factors, and zoning laws affecting school sites.</p>		
Designated "Major Thoroughfare"			Access to a neighborhood school using a district or UTA bus									Changes since school was built		
None within one block	More than two blocks and no major thoroughfare within one block	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None		
Major thoroughfare on parallel walking route to and from school	Approximate number of students living in boundary who would cross a major thoroughfare to attend the school	Potential impact on the number of students crossing a major thoroughfare if closed	Number of children accessible to this school in a 1.5-mile radius without requiring students to cross a designated major thoroughfare	Does the school have a safe walking route for students?	Number of students who live within one mile radius of the building	Approximate number of students riding a school bus	Number of buses serving the school population	Estimated impact on the number of buses used if closed	Bus loading/unloading information	Car drop-off/pick-up information	Availability of UTA bus routes	Geographical features of natural boundaries (not including major thoroughfares)	Environmental factors such as pipeline, high voltage power lines, etc.	Zoning laws that have changed traffic patterns
None	0	0	2	Yes	1,086	0	0	Increase	There is not a designated bus loading/unloading zone. Students are loading and unloading on Cedar street by driveway to school.	No concern with procedure.	Route 1 comes within 0.6 miles of the school	None	Unknown environmental hazards as per SLC city planner (September 2023)	No
None	0	Potential increase	5	Yes	774	0	0	Increase	There is not a designated bus loading/unloading zone. Students load and unload at the Good Hope Church on the corner of 500 North and 700 West.	New drop-off procedure in west parking area occurs daily with very few or no concern.	Route 1 stops within 0.2 miles of the school	None	Unknown environmental hazards as per SLC city planner (September 2023)	No
						0	0							
None	0	0	1	Yes	373	40	2	Increase	There is not a designated bus loading/unloading zone. Students load and unload on the side of First Avenue on the north side of school.	Students are dropped off and picked up in various locations around the school and in the surrounding neighborhood.	Route 1 goes on S Temple, Route 223 down 3rd Ave	None	Unknown environmental hazards as per SLC city planner (September 2023)	No
700 East, 400 South	70	Potential decrease	1	Yes	628	20	2	Neutral	There is not a designated bus loading/unloading zone. Students load and unload at the corner of 500 South and 800 East.	New drop-off procedure in west parking area occurs daily with very few or no concern.	Trax and buses run along 400 S	None	Unknown environmental hazards as per SLC city planner (September 2023)	No
									Students load and unload on 1000 East (west side). Park trips between buses and sidewalks create issues in the winter and when	Harrison is a part-time one-way street (part to west)			Unknown environmental	



# Identified Outlying Data

- Outliers are areas in which a school over- or under-performs based on a benchmark
- Outliers provide a point of differentiation between schools
- Many data points had no outliers—thus were not used to distinguish between schools
- Individual data points balanced with feedback and other factors as a part of the holistic review of schools

School enrollment		Numbers of students enrolled in district programs (ELP, DLI)	
	<i>200 or less</i>		
Number of students enrolled 2022-23	Number of students enrolled 2023-24	Number of students enrolled and registered in a district program 2023-24	Number of students enrolled and registered in a district program who also reside within the school boundary 2023-24
251	224		
377	337		
<i>223</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>154</i>	<i>119</i>		
338	333		
157	156		



## How We Made Our Decision

- When studying schools for potential closure, we used the complete set of data.
- We considered individual data points in context, not in isolation.
- We incorporated community input.
- We recognize that some factors may not be adequately captured by individual criteria or data points, thus used the data as part of a comprehensive evaluation.



## Incorporating Community Input

- Recommend not closing all four schools in center of the city
- Strive to maintain walkable schools
- Increase access to special district programs
- Avoid school boundaries that required students to cross major thoroughfares
- Maintain stability for students in Special Education HUB program



## 2024-25 Enrollment Options

- Students may continue to attend the school they are attending this school year if it was their neighborhood boundary school and it remains open.
- Families may continue to use the open enrollment process to attend a district school that is not their neighborhood boundary school.
- District will honor current open enrollment permits if the school remains open.





# Recommendations on School Closures and Rationale



Newman and Mary W. Jackson



## Notable Data: Newman Elementary

- Only 230 students live within its school boundaries.
- That number is not projected to increase in the next few years.
- A collaborative PreK program (serving special education students alongside general education students) located here and difficult to relocate.
- Estimated 38 years of remaining useful building life.



## Notable Data: Mary W. Jackson Elementary

- Has 5 schools in close proximity (walkable school alternatives)
- 218 of Jackson's 337 students are part of the DLI program, which can be relocated to another school in the area
- Only 1 neighborhood class per grade level
- Estimated 18 years of remaining useful building life
- Scored a 40 on capacity to meet anticipated future electrical needs, meaning 11 or fewer classrooms have this capacity.



## Newman - Mary W. Jackson

- Newman's collaborative PreK program is challenging to relocate
- Newman building is newer and will not need replacement as soon as MW Jackson building
- Newman has smaller overall enrollment, *but* its neighborhood program serves more students than MW Jackson's neighborhood program
- DLI program can be located at a different school

After further study, the district determined that Mary W. Jackson Elementary be recommended for closure.



M. Lynn Bennion and Wasatch



## Notable Data: M. Lynn Bennion Elementary

- Only 156 students enrolled this year, 4 of 7 grades with one classroom
- Number of residential students is projected to drop
- 48% of resident students choose to attend another school.
- School sits within one block of two major thoroughfares (400 S. & 700 E.) and school boundary crosses both
- Estimated remaining building life is 17 years
- Only has 26 classrooms (ideal is 28)
- Accessibility concerns with distance from back parking lot to school entrance



## Notable Data: Wasatch Elementary

- 333 enrolled students and draws students from outside its boundary
- Number of residential students is projected to increase
- Only 26% of resident students choose to attend another school.
- Estimated 13 years of remaining useful building life
- Classroom infrastructure score of 40 (11 or fewer classrooms currently can meet future electrical needs).
- Significant accessibility concerns for stakeholders with certain disabilities or limitations.





## M. Lynn Bennion - Wasatch

- Both buildings have fewer than 20 years of useful remaining life; therefore, this is not a differentiating factor.
- Accessibility concerns with Wasatch are significant
- Concerns are outweighed by Bennion's small number of classrooms, proximity to two major thoroughfares, significant challenges in actual enrollment, declining residential student population, and high percentage of resident students transferring to other schools

After further study, the district determined that M. Lynn Bennion Elementary be recommended for closure.



# Hawthorne and Emerson



## Notable Data: Emerson Elementary

- 3 schools in close proximity - walkable school alternatives
- Estimated remaining building life is 15 years
- 16 classrooms have no exterior windows
- Accessibility issues with playground (currently addressing through campus improvements)
- Emerson is a district HUB school serving students with disabilities; district committed to reduce movement of students in HUB program
- Relocating HUB program would mean significant disruption for students and for collaborative teaching teams at Emerson



## Notable Data: Hawthorne Elementary

- Only has 224 residential students
- Residential enrollment projected to decrease to 190 students in the next 3 school years
- Hawthorne located next to 700 East, a major thoroughfare; about 90 students walk to school across 700 E.
- Estimated remaining building life is 23 years
- Classroom infrastructure score was 40
- Has 27 classrooms



## Emerson - Hawthorne

- Both schools had factors that – had they not been located next to each other – might have warranted the closure of both schools.
- The negative impacts of possibly relocating the HUB program weighed heavily in the analysis.

After further study, the district has determined that Hawthorne Elementary be recommended for closure.



Riley Elementary



## Notable Data: Riley

- Current enrollment is 193 students
- Last year, 41% of residential students chose to attend a different school.
- Estimated remaining useful building life is 37 years
  - (Two schools in this part of the city are newer than Riley)
- The two schools within 1.5 miles of Riley could easily welcome Riley students



## Riley Elementary

- The student population in this part of the city warrants closing at least one school; Riley is the only school on the study list in this part of the city.

After further study, the district determined that Riley Elementary be recommended for closure.





## Elementary Schools Recommended for Closure

Hawthorne Elementary

M. Lynn Bennion Elementary

Mary W. Jackson Elementary

Riley Elementary



# Recommendations for Boundary Adjustments and Rationale



## Focus on Walkable Neighborhood Schools

Community input asked the district to prioritize walkable schools and to address student safety concerns in recommending changes to school boundaries

- Providing as many students and families as possible with a walkable neighborhood school
- Recommending only four schools for closure means most impacted students will still be able to walk to school
- Proposing new boundaries that emphasize safety of students, either by providing them with a walkable neighborhood school or district transportation to their new neighborhood school



## Focus on Student Safety

- Decrease major thoroughfare crossings for students walking to and from school
- Ensure no impacted students would have to cross a major thoroughfare or I-15 to get to their proposed neighborhood boundary school.
- Create walking and biking routes that are even safer for our students.
- Respond to student safety concerns that are critical to all of our stakeholders.



## Focus on Enrollment and Demographics

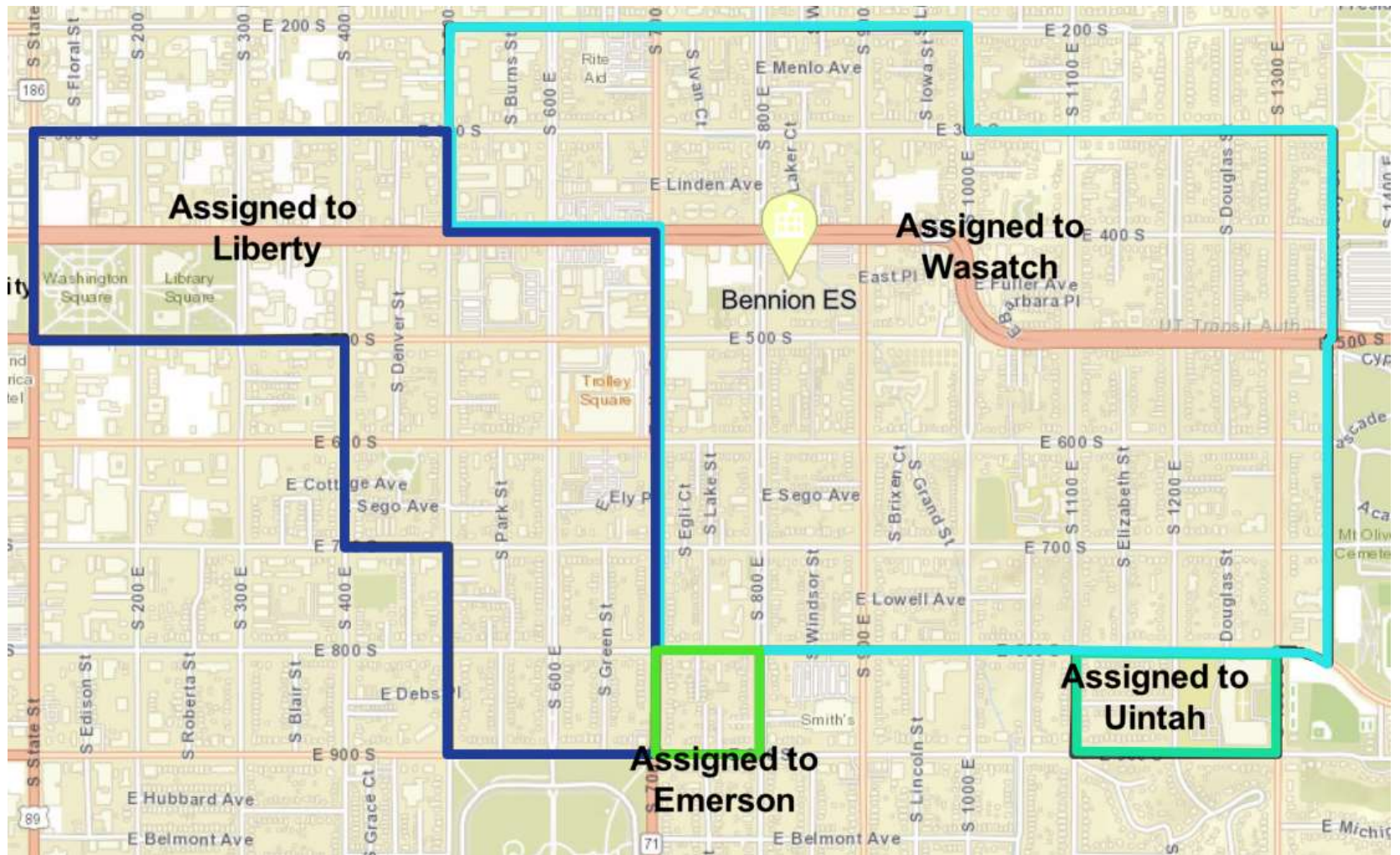
- In redrawing boundaries, the district aimed to balance elementary school enrollment across schools
- Ensure schools aren't overburdened or underutilized due to boundary changes
- Ensure schools without a district special program have robust neighborhood enrollment
- Title I status and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) status not impacted



# New Neighborhood Boundary School Assignment Recommendations

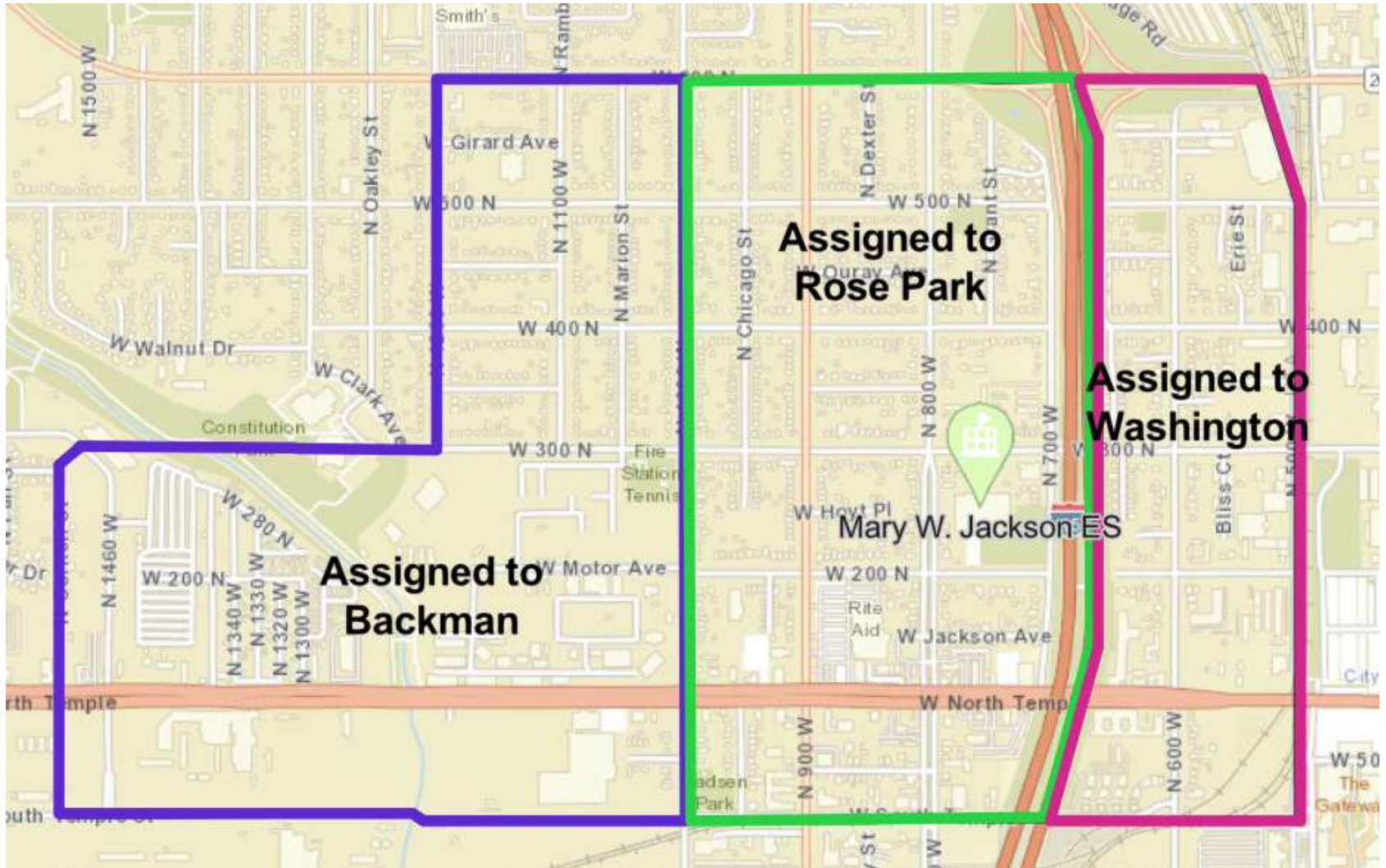


# Recommendation for M. Lynn Bennion Elementary Students





# Recommendation for Mary W. Jackson Elementary Students





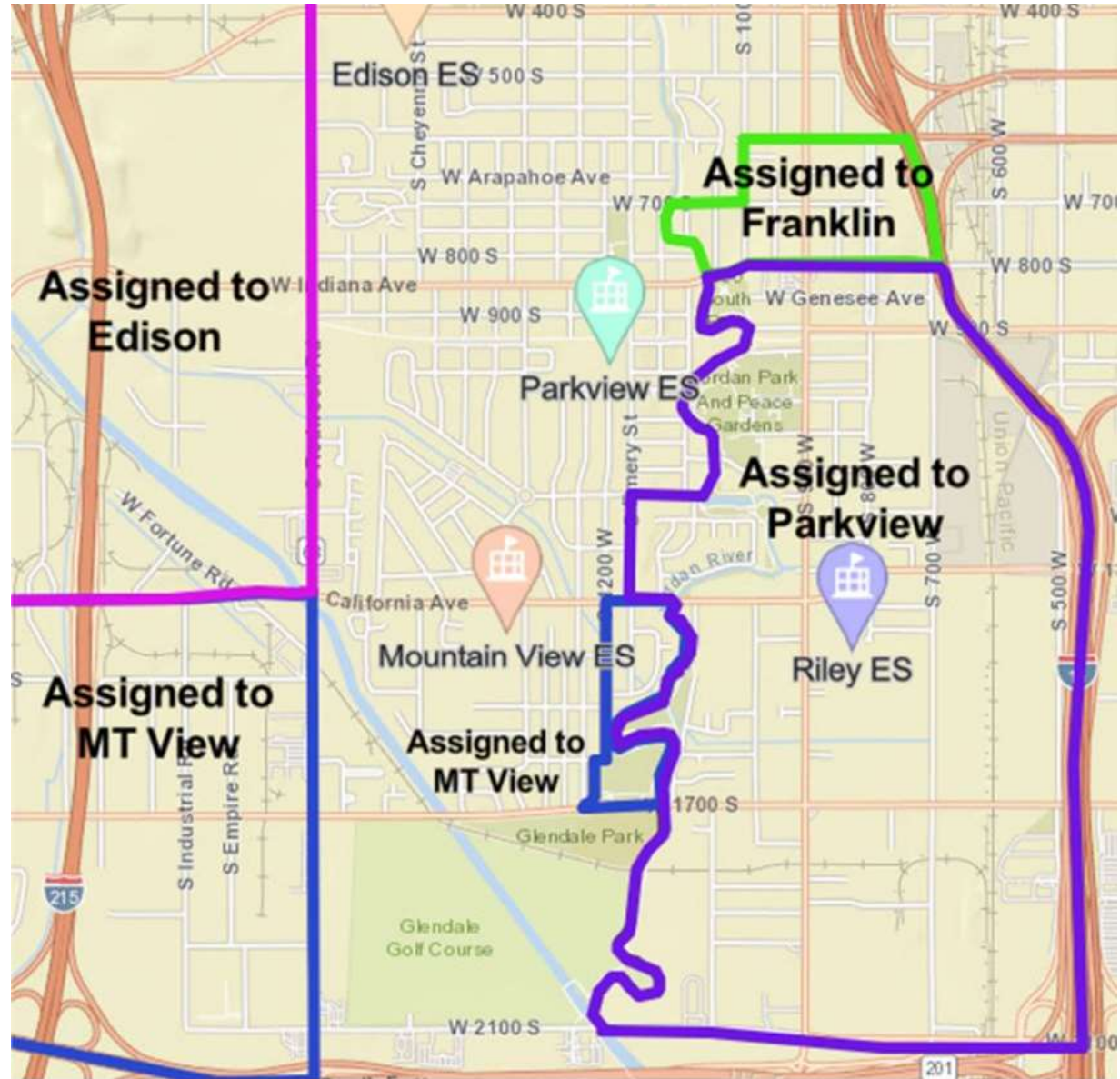


# Recommendation for Hawthorne Elementary Students





# Recommendation for Riley Elementary Students





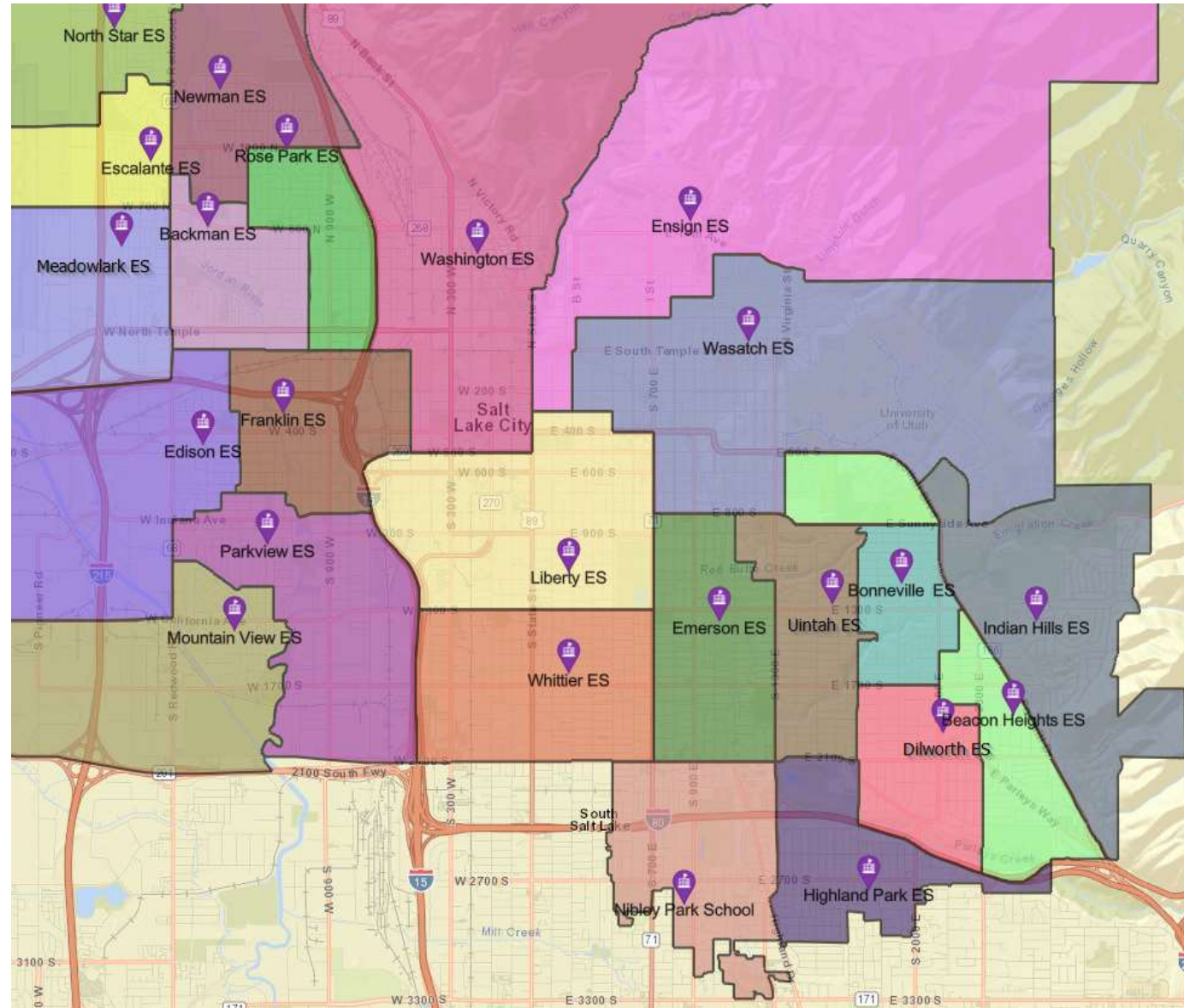
# Recommended Boundary Adjustments

(14 schools)

- Backman Elementary School
- Edison Elementary School
- Emerson Elementary School
- Ensign Elementary School
- Franklin Elementary School
- Liberty Elementary School
- Mountain View Elementary School
- Newman Elementary School
- Parkview Elementary School
- Rose Park Elementary School
- Uintah Elementary School
- Wasatch Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School
- Whittier Elementary School



# Proposed New Elementary School Boundaries





## Reminder: 2024-25 Enrollment Options

- Students may continue to attend the school they are attending this school year if it was their neighborhood boundary school and it remains open.
- Families may continue to use the open enrollment process to attend a district school that is not their neighborhood boundary school.
- District will honor current open enrollment permits if the school remains open.



# Special District Program Placement

Magnet Extended Learning Program (Magnet ELP)

Dual Language Immersion (DLI)

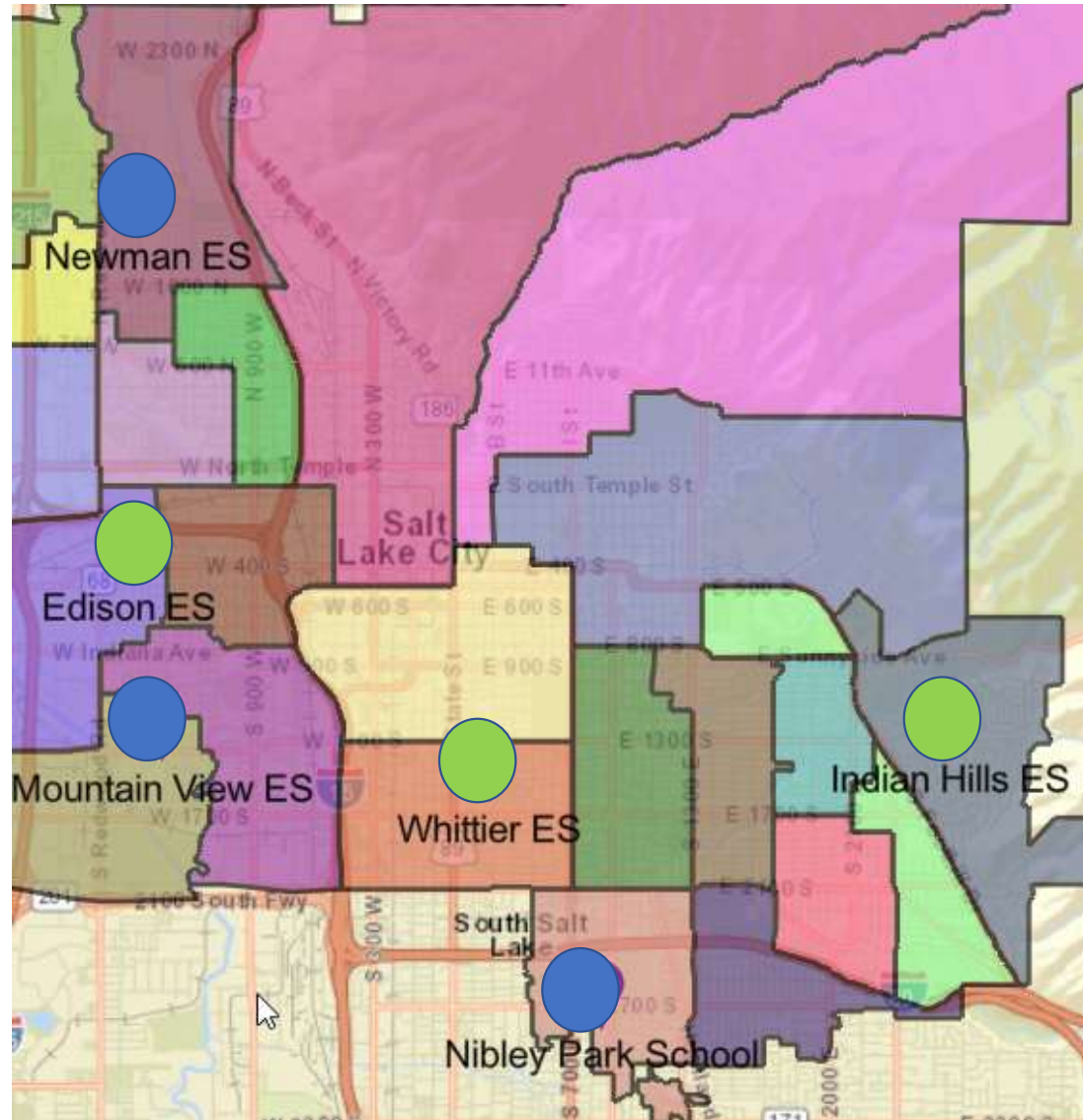


## Foundational Decisions Regarding Special District Program Placement

1. Special district programs should be placed equitably throughout the district
2. One special district program at an elementary school
3. Special district programs will be located at schools with enough classrooms for a special program *and* neighborhood enrollment
4. Special district programs will be assigned to an area
5. The district will provide busing to special district programs by area



- DLI
- Magnet





*New!*

Magnet ELP located at Edison



# Magnet ELP located at Indian Hills formerly located at Hawthorne



ELP/DLI located at Nibley Park  
formerly located at Emerson





# Magnet ELP/DLI at Nibley Park will transition to an Open Program (no restrictions on enrollment)

2024-25		
Grade 1	Magnet	Open
Grade 2	Magnet	Open
Grade 3	Magnet	
Grade 4	Magnet	
Grade 5	Magnet	
Grade 6	Magnet	

2025-26		
Grade 1	Open	Open
Grade 2	Magnet	Open
Grade 3	Magnet	Open
Grade 4	Magnet	
Grade 5	Magnet	
Grade 6	Magnet	

2026-27		
Grade 1	Open	Open
Grade 2	Open	Open
Grade 3	Magnet	Open
Grade 4	Magnet	Open
Grade 5	Magnet	
Grade 6	Magnet	

In 2024-25, grades 1 and 2 will be open for student enrollment using the open enrollment process

The special open enrollment period is in effect for this program



# Existing Magnet ELPs

Washington



(Pilot 4-6 program)

Whittier



*New!*

Dual Language Immersion located at Nibley Park



DLI program located at Newman  
formerly located at Mary W. Jackson



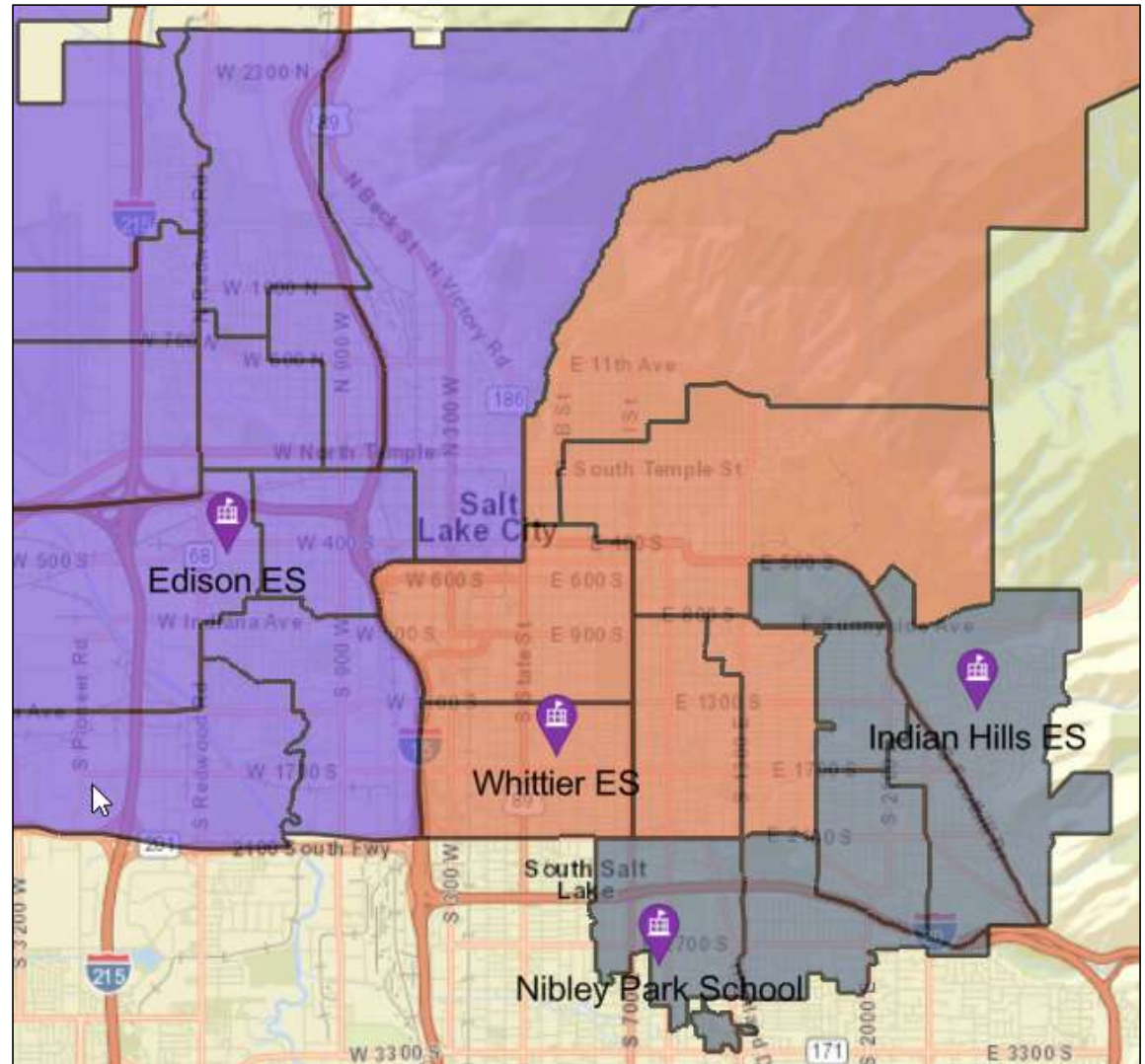
Existing DLI program located at  
Mountain View





# Area Map for Magnet ELP

- Edison
- Indian Hills
- Whittier
- *Nibley Park during transition*





# Magnet Areas

*Schools assigned to Indian Hills Magnet Area*

- Beacon Heights
- Bonneville
- Dilworth
- Highland Park
- Indian Hills
- Nibley Park

*Schools assigned to Whittier Magnet Area*

- Emerson
- Ensign
- Liberty
- Uintah
- Wasatch
- Whittier

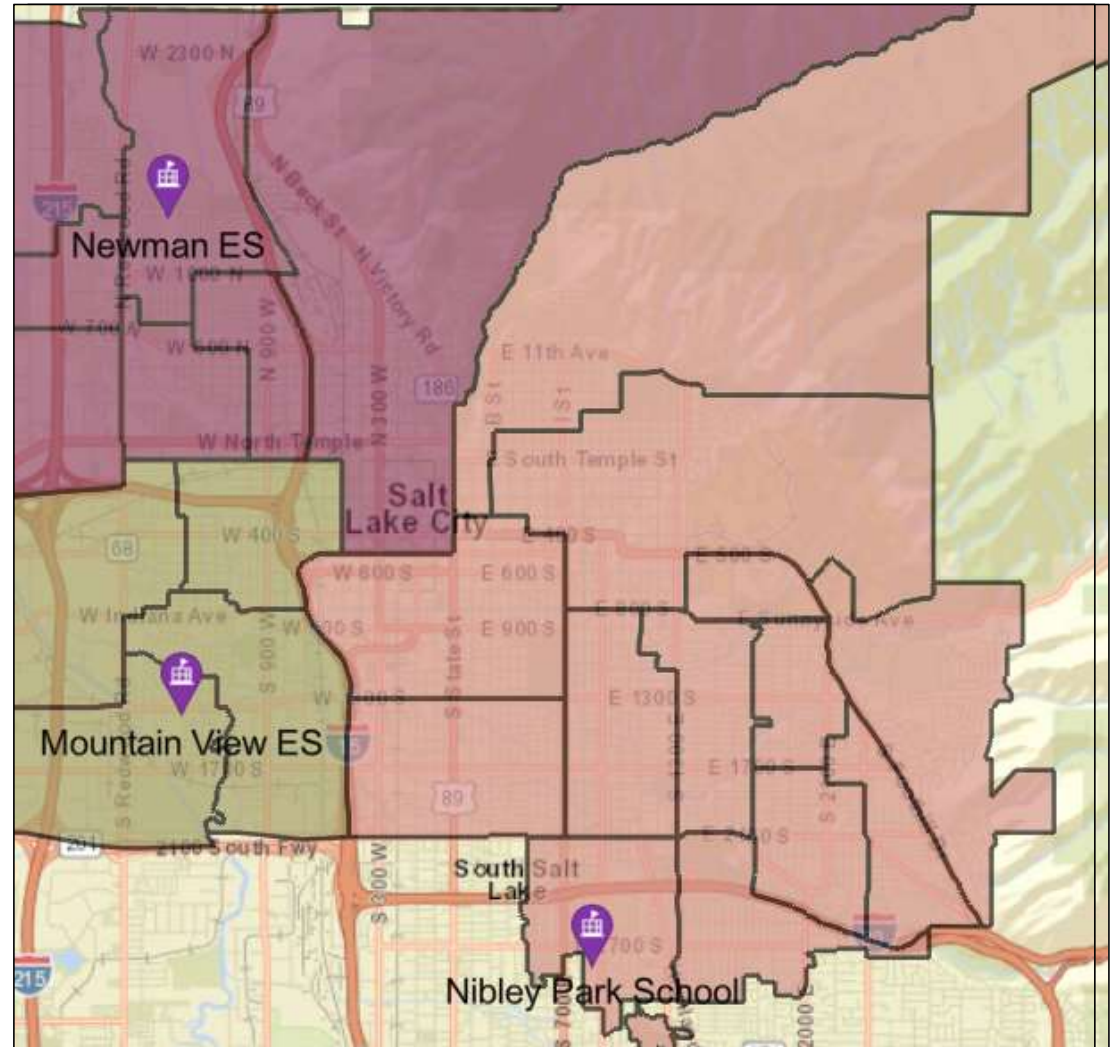
*Schools assigned to Edison Magnet Area*

- Backman
- Edison
- Escalante
- Franklin
- Meadowlark
- Mountain View
- Newman
- North Star
- Parkview
- Rose Park
- Washington

# Area Map for Dual Language Immersion

## Locations:

- Newman
- Nibley Park
- Mountain View





## DLI Areas

### *Schools assigned to the Mountain View DLI Area*

- Edison
- Franklin
- Mountain View
- Parkview

### *Schools assigned to the Newman DLI Area*

- Backman
- Escalante
- Meadowlark
- Newman
- North Star
- Rose Park
- Washington

### *Schools assigned to the Nibley Park DLI Area*

- Beacon Heights
- Bonneville
- Dilworth
- Ensign
- Highland Park
- Indian Hills
- Emerson
- Liberty
- Nibley Park
- Uintah
- Wasatch
- Whittier



## Student enrollment in programs

- Students currently in a special district program can remain with their program.
- If a student attends a program that is relocated or at a school that is closed, the student's cohort will move to the location where the program has been assigned.
  - If a student lives more than 1.5 miles from the new location of the program, district transportation will be provided for three years.
  - This is true even if the school the cohort will attend is not in the student's new special district program area.



## For new student cohorts

- For new student cohorts, busing will be provided for all students living more than 1.5 miles from the Magnet or DLI school in their area.
- If you would prefer your student attend a program located at a different school, you can make that request through the ELP department for Magnet or the open enrollment process for DLI.
  - Transportation will not be provided for schools not assigned to the Magnet Area.



# Transition Planning



## Transition for Students and Families

- Robust communication to help families navigate possible changes
- Students would transition in fall 2024 to new schools
- School leaders will work with families, School Community Councils, and parent-teacher groups to address transition
- School will host meet and greet activities for students, families, and staff, end-of-year combined events, start-of-school year activities, etc.
- Provide social-emotional support to students at their current school, delivered by the school counselor
- Special Open Enrollment period available



The district will [maintain](#) positions for our valued employees and not dismiss or otherwise reduce employees [who](#) may be displaced due to any potential school closure.



## Transition for Staff

- The district will offer positions for our valued employees and not dismiss or otherwise reduce employees who may be displaced due to any potential school closure.



## Property Use

- If the Board votes to close schools, the district will present recommendations for review to ensure the land and/or building remain an asset to the community
- Preference will be given to uses that directly benefit students and/or the district
- We will solicit input from community members
- During any transition, the buildings and grounds will be maintained and secured



## Next Step

# Public Hearing

The hearing will be held:

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6:30 p.m.  
in the West High School Auditorium



**SALT LAKE CITY**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Your Best Choice*

## Questions from the Board