



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 15, 2022

Dear New Providence School Community,

Over the past two years, the Board of Education has been working closely with Dr. Richard Grip who is a recognized school demographer. Dr. Grip's reports and presentations can be found on our district website [here](#). The purpose of his consultation has been to evaluate the District's current enrollment and to predict future enrollments based on the changing housing landscape in our community. The source of concern is the potential increase in enrollment due to proposed and future housing developments in the community, which could have implications for our schools.

The changing housing landscape is taking place while we are beginning to see a decrease in our enrollment based on our initial projections. Therefore, we have been evaluating solutions very closely with Dr. Grip's assistance. As a result of our evaluation of Salt Brook and Allen W. Roberts' current and projected enrollments, there is an identified inequity. This inequity leaves *Salt Brook School with a significantly smaller population than Allen W. Roberts School*.

In order to address the future inequity, the District, with the input of Dr. Grip, reached a solution to ensure comparable numbers at both schools. The recommended strategy would entail redistricting so that equity can be achieved. The solution was proposed at the Board of Education's July 28th meeting via a report and presentation by Dr. Grip in collaboration with the District.

At the Board of Education's August 30, 2022 meeting, the Board approved the recommended plan, which will take effect beginning in the 2024/2025 school year. The next two years will allow families in the identified zones time to become aware of the changes, and evaluate them accordingly for their children. The plan includes moving the existing District line for elementary schools from Livingston Avenue to South Street. Many years ago, South Street was the District line and it was moved at that time to create equity in the inverse of this proposal. The line

movement will occur over two phases (2024/2025 school year & 2026/2027 school year) and via four zones (A, B, C, D). Please see the community map [here](#).

Here are the salient points of our plan:

1. The primary goal is to provide equity among both elementary schools with the least amount of disruption for our students. By this I mean that we are trying to ensure that all students who started at an elementary school may continue to stay in that school through 6th grade.
2. In September of 2024, incoming Kindergarten students identified in Zones A & D, will attend Salt Brook School instead of Allen W. Roberts.
3. Any newly registered students who move into Zones A & D, regardless of grade, beginning in September of 2024 will attend Salt Brook School instead of Allen W. Roberts.
4. Any students who currently live in Zones A & D and attend Allen W. Roberts through the 2023/2024 school year will be grandfathered at AWR, and will not have to move to Salt Brook.
5. If you have a child at AWR, and you have another child entering Kindergarten who will attend Salt Brook as a result of these transitions, and you would like for your older child to attend Salt Brook as well, you can make that request and we will honor it pending class size capacity. This will allow for both students to attend the same school. This will not be honored in the inverse. If your child is entering Kindergarten and they are in the identified zones during the proposed years, they must go to Salt Brook. If you are interested in transitioning your child from Allen W. Roberts to Salt Brook, please contact Dena DiRocco, Registrar at (908) 464-9050 x-4221.
6. In the 2025/2026 school year, no additional movement will occur. In the event students move into zones A & D during that year, regardless of grade, they will attend Salt Brook.
7. In September of 2026, phase two will occur, and we will make the same transitions for students entering Kindergarten in Zones B & C. All of the same standards will apply.
8. Beginning in September of 2027, all students residing in zones A, B, C, & D (except those who are grandfathered) will attend Salt Brook.

Again, our goal is to create future equity among both elementary schools with the least amount of disruption for our students. The only change that may occur would be as a result of parent choice in the above mentioned # 5.

Individual families, in the identified zones, will be notified by mail of the impending changes. If you do not receive a separate letter from the district, you do not need to be concerned with any of the redistricting procedures, since it will not impact your family.

I want to make note that our redistricting plan has no direct correlation to the proposed Bond Referendum on November 8, 2022, or the forthcoming full-day Kindergarten program slated to begin in September of 2023.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dena DiRocco, Registrar, at (908) 464-9050 x-4221.

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miceli, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David M. Miceli, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools