

Redistricting Essentials



Each Board member is elected from a single member district (SMD). Redistricting is the process by which the boundaries of the SMDs are periodically redrawn in response to changes in population as measured by the decennial federal census.

WHAT OUR SMD COMMUNITIES NEED TO KNOW:

- Redrawing of the current SMDs is required under applicable law if 2020 census data indicates the population of the most populous SMD exceeds the population of the least populous SMD by more than 10 percent.
- COVID-19 has resulted in several delays to the release of 2020 census data at the federal level.
- At this time, 2020 census data is expected to be released in preliminary form by mid-August 2021, and in more final form by the end of September 2021.
- The Board will be considering an approved process for redistricting at the August 12 meeting.
- Major deadlines or event dates under the Board-approved process for redistricting, once adopted, will be communicated to the public.
- Dates of board meetings, public hearings, community meetings and/or town halls related to redistricting will be advertised to the public.
- Public input is needed and will be requested. Public input will be sought at board meetings, public hearings, community meetings and/or town hall meetings related to redistricting.
- Links to the District's webpage on redistricting and other district-provided educational materials will be made available and accessible at the District's website: **www.dallasisd.org**.
- There are criteria or factors to be used in evaluating any proposed changes to the District's current SMD map:
 - Maintaining communities of interest, such as neighborhoods, within SMDs
 - Observing geographic boundaries when possible
 - Preserving existing SMD boundaries to the degree possible
 - Preserving incumbent-constituency relations to the degree possible by placing the residence of existing trustees in separate single-member districts
 - Adopting SMDs of substantially equal size
 - Adopting SMDs which are compact and contiguous
 - Avoiding county precinct splits
 - Avoiding retrogression of minority voting rights by drawing a plan where minority voting strength is not diminished relative to the existing plan to comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965





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In this process, the Trustees are unable to:

- Make representations or promises to constituents concerning specific map changes.
- Make representations that the populations of re-drawn districts must be equal or the same.
- State or suggest that proposed/requested changes can or cannot be made based on any *one* criterion or factor.
- Focus on one criterion or factor to the exclusion of the other criteria to be used to evaluate any proposed changes in the District's current map.
- Represent that the redrawing of SMDs is the same as the redrawing of attendance zones.
- Represent or lend the impression that current trustees will vacate or lose their offices because of an approved plan
- Meet in numbers of a quorum or more with other trustees, at the same time or serially, to discuss redistricting.

