



East Islip Union Free School District Elementary School Grade Span Proposal

What We are Examining

The Board of Education is exploring an alternative to school closurea grade span reconfiguration...to ensure sustainability of all four existing elementary schools, preservation of existing programs, and cost-savings for all taxpayers.



Why Change and Why Now?

- **Student achievement is, of course, our focus when making decisions about school configurations.**
- **Results of the Demographic/Enrollment & Facilities studies performed last fall by Western Suffolk BOCES reveal we will have a significant enrollment decline of almost 1,000 students over the next decade (through 2023). This follows an already significant decline over the past several years.**
- **The realities of fiscal constraints, projected declining enrollment, political tensions, school size, and geographic realities are concerns.**



- Our students currently receive a high quality instruction by a very talented staff; they deserve only the best possible education in their future given the fiscal realities of a state imposed tax cap, declining state aid, and rising costs.

This is not the time to think just one year; this is the time to do some real restructuring.

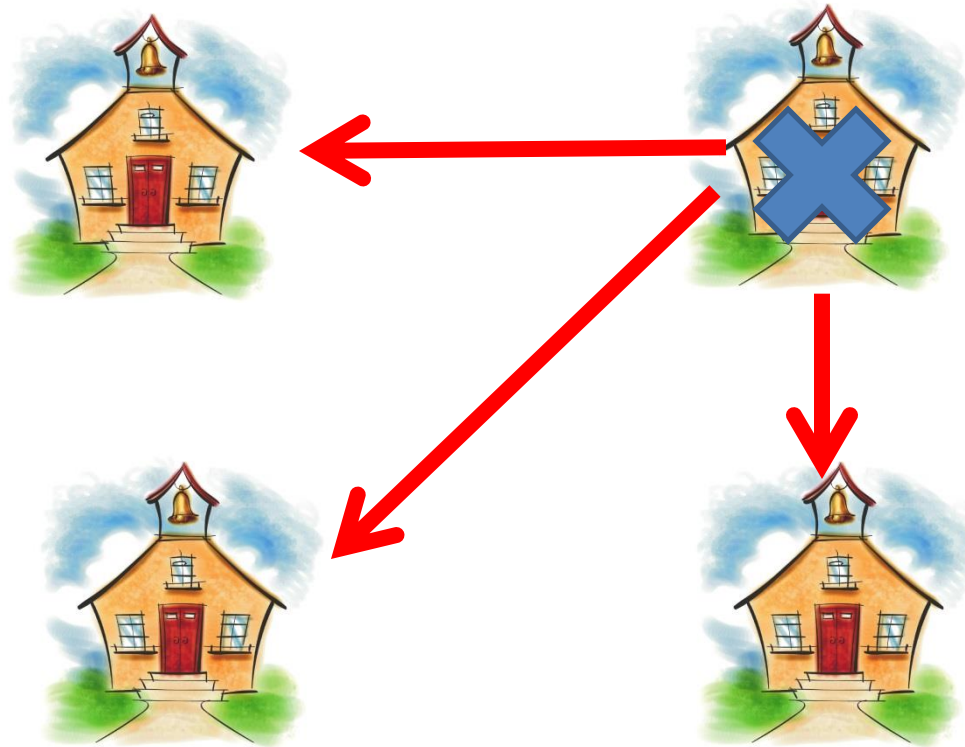


Why Change and Why Now?

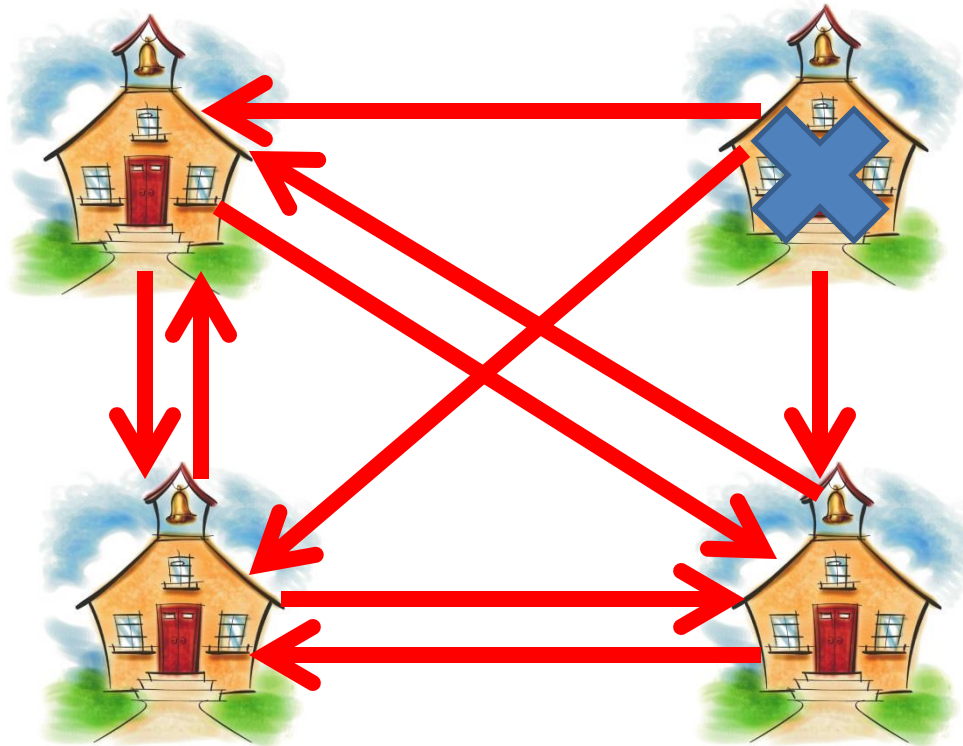
- The Board of Education is exploring a grade span reconfiguration...to ensure sustainability of all 4 existing elementary schools so living within the East Islip UFSD remains attractive.
- This is not the time to think just one year; this is the time to do some real planning....We are here tonight to dispel some rumors and give you the transparent facts....we are not closing a school in the immediate future.



A School Closing: What We Think Would Happen...



A School Closing: What Will Happen...



A Closed School = Stagnant Savings



Goals of the Proposal

- **Ensure that all elementary schools maintain high quality programs.**
- **Ensure that students enter in September with everything they need;**
- **Ensure that schools support rigor, relevance and relationships to enhance student learning, and;**
- **Ensure that we can sustain all current elementary buildings and simultaneously make better spacial use of our facilities, given a projected declining enrollment over the next ten years.**



Potential Configuration Model

Current Model:

Four (4) traditional elementary schools

CES(K-5) JFK(K-5) RCK(K-5) TP(PK-5)

Proposed School Grade Spans:

Two (2) primary schools

K-2(CES) PK-2(TP)*

Two (2) intermediate schools

3-5(JFK)* 3-5(RCK)



Key Conclusions

- Full-Day Kindergarten preserved.
- Students will be distributed evenly throughout all classes in a grade level and class sizes will be equalized. Lower class sizes compared to the 2013/2013 school year.
- Existing art/music programs at the schools all preserved.
- All AIS services continue as required.
- Cultural/assembly programs preserved, made grade-appropriate.
- Before/Aftercare programs preserved.



- **MS/HS athletics & activities preserved.**
- **Two additional College Board Advanced Placement classes at East Islip HS will be offered.**
- **The new Culinary Academy offered for CTE credits**



Why This Change Makes Sense

- **Positive effect of school setting on grade level achievement, particularly better focused primary and intermediate opportunities;**
- **The ability to lower class size compared to the current year;**
- **Increased opportunities for interaction among a particular age groups, easing transition to middle school;**
- **The overall effect on residents and employees on whether the neighborhood schools close or remain open and be reconfigured;**
- **The cost and length of student travel; and**
- **Building design and facility capacity and how well it suits future enrollment trends.**



Positive Instructional Impacts

- Permits the primary building to focus on early childhood education, while the intermediate building concentrates on the needs of the intermediate age students.
- More consistency among a grade level in planning and teaching. (i.e.: guided reading in the reading workshop)
- Concentrated focus for planning appropriate school initiatives, cultural arts and professional development activities that address developmental levels.
- More opportunities for children with special needs to be integrated regularly and spend more time with grade level peers.
- More resources and ideas can be shared. (i.e. book room materials, better use of school libraries, etc.)
- Vertical and horizontal planning is increased.



How We Handle Transitions

- **Establishment of transition committee to address the logistical, social and emotional needs of students and staff.**
- **Easing transitions through tours and special orientations.**
- **Reducing competition between and among schools.**
- **Broader base of friendships.**
- **Builds a sense of community prior to grade six.**



Arrival and Dismissal Times

Sample new school start times, district-wide, make this a possibility, with elongating the elementary day by only 5 minutes.

HS: 7:15 - 1:55 p.m.

MS: 7:50 - 2:30 p.m.

RCK (grades 3-5) and JFK (grades 3-5): 9:10 - 3:10 p.m.

CES (grades K-2) and TP (grades PK-2): 9:40 - 3:40



Additionally,

- **The K-3 (.5 mile radius) and 4/5 (1.0 mile radius) will still be in effect.**
- **Staggered arrival and dismissal times alleviate most concerns.**
- **The district, due to staggered start times district-wide, will utilize five (5) less buses resulting in an additional savings of \$300,000 in 2014/2015.**



Staffing Impacts

All of our East Islip teachers have the talent, training and skills to best serve the students of East Islip.

Most likely we would prefer that all teachers would remain in their grade levels. It is our goal to have a few movements as possible.



Other Districts Using This Model

A sampling of districts that have moved to a K-2 /3-5 model have been contacted for information about their transition model and satisfaction. All expressed that they would not return to a K-5 model.

- Babylon
- Cold Spring Harbor
- Commack
- Elwood
- Harborfields
- Garden City
- Hewlett Woodmere
- Locust Valley
- Oyster Bay East Norwich
- Roslyn
- Shoreham Wading River (recently adopted for fall 2014)





THANK YOU

East Islip Union Free School District