



MONONA GROVE

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Introduction

This report outlines the recommended changes to the school attendance boundaries for Cottage Grove students enrolled in 4K through 2nd grade, based on an extensive review of current enrollment data, student demographics, and projected future growth.

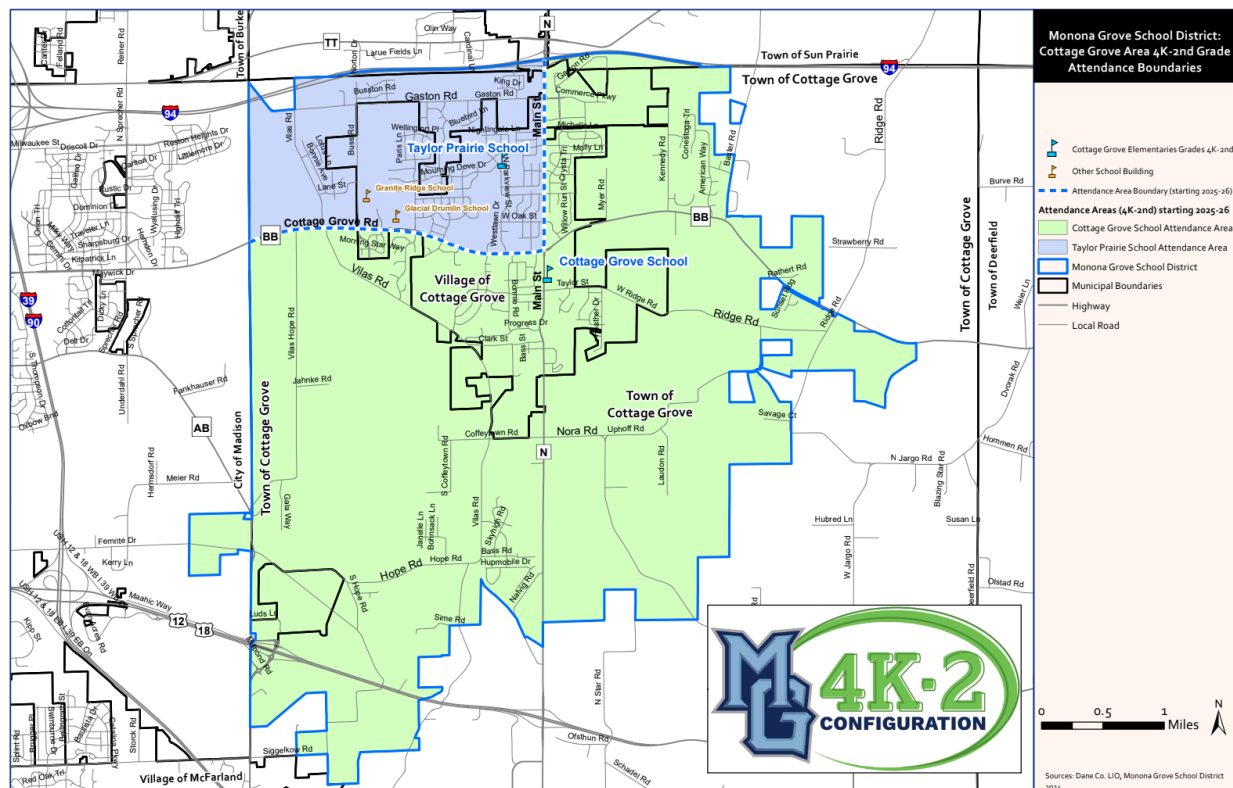
On February 14, 2024, the Monona Grove Board of Education approved the charge of the committee as follows:

“The Monona Grove Board of Education charges the Ad Hoc School Boundaries Committee to make an advisory recommendation to the School Board for the creation of attendance boundaries for Taylor Prairie School and Cottage Grove School to be implemented for the 2025-2026 school year. The committee will submit a written report to the Board. This report will include a summary of the committee’s research, conclusions, and recommendations related to school attendance areas presented for consideration by the Board. The committee will be available for the group presentation to the Board at completion of the committee’s work.”

This report outlines the processes and recommendation of the committee.

Committee Recommendation

Based on an extensive review of current enrollment data, student demographics, and projected future growth, the committee recommends a boundary that extends east-west along Highway BB (Cottage Grove Road) and north-south along Highway N (Main Street). Residents north and west of Highways BB and N would belong to the Taylor Prairie School attendance zone; residents east and south of that intersection would belong to the Cottage Grove School attendance zone.



(Map [available here](#) as PDF.)

The aim of the recommendation is to (1) optimize educational resources, (2) honor the district's goals of equity and diversity, (3) accommodate future growth, and (4) cultivate a cohesive and supportive educational community districtwide.

Members & Timeline

This committee was made up of a mix of school board members, principals, teachers, and community members.

School Board	Staff		Community Members
	Cottage Grove School	Taylor Prairie School	
Elizabeth Cook, Chair	Nicole Gilsdorf	Emily Foster	Monica DeCarlo
Peter Sobol	Jesse Starr	Lindsey Rice	Laura Perez-Brenner
	Lisa Sutter	Allison Wojta	Tracy Phillippi
			Andrea Ruiz

Former Superintendent Dan Olson and Director of Communications and Community Engagement Katy Byrnes Kaiser served on this committee as ex-officio (non-voting) members.

The committee met on April 29, 2024; May 6, 2024; May 20, 2024; June 10, 2024; and August 26, 2024. Staffing and boundary timeline work are listed concurrently on [this document](#).

Data Review

The committee determined the following demographics should be reviewed, considered, and balanced as much as possible:

- Race/ethnicity
- English Language (EL) status
- Free/reduced lunch eligibility
- Disability status

Balanced resource allocation and student population priority: that all students have access to comparable educational opportunities, ensure that all students receive what they need.

In addition to current and trend data, the committee heard a report from Dan Eckberg of Vandewalle and Associates who provided updated enrollment and population data on future growth in Cottage Grove. Committee members were presented with a comprehensive analysis of projected population growth within the district over the next decade. Factors that Vandewalle considered in the study included planned development/land use, birth rates, real estate market, and more. The report indicates most residential development in the northern and western portion of the Village, driven by new housing developments (see [Vandewalle & Associates Future Growth Report](#)).

According to Vandewalle, the projected 10-year enrollment in the proposed CGS attendance zone is nearly flat, while a small increase is projected in the proposed TPS attendance zone.

Resident Student Enrollment 2023-24					
Potential Attendance Area	K4	KG	1st	2nd	Total
Cottage Grove School	53	50	76	71	250
Taylor Prairie School	45	62	70	46	223

Projected Resident Student Enrollment 2033-34													
Potential Attendance Area	From Existing Development				From Planned Development				Total Projected Resident Enrollment				
	K4	KG	1st	2nd	K4	KG	1st	2nd	K4	KG	1st	2nd	Total
Cottage Grove School	47	44	67	63	5	6	8	7	52	50	75	70	247
Taylor Prairie School	40	55	62	41	9	10	11	8	49	65	73	49	236

The committee's boundary recommendations align with these projections, aiming to balance current enrollment while preparing for future growth.

Conclusion & Next Steps

By implementing this recommendation, the committee believes the district will be better positioned to provide high-quality education to all students, regardless of their background or location within the district.

The committee recommendation and report will be presented to the Board of Education on September 11, 2024. At that time, the School Board will vote on whether to accept the recommendation. Once the boundary recommendations have been finalized, decisions will be communicated clearly to all interested and impacted groups, including parents, staff, and community members. This process will begin immediately upon approval and will include, but not be limited to: electronic communications to families and staff via email, school webpages, and newsletters, media publications via the Herald Independent, and engagement with area realtors, developers and business owners.

As the Monona Grove School District leadership moves into operationalizing the boundary recommendation other engagement opportunities will become available, including building tours and staff meet and greets. Our administrators and staff will be agile in providing additional engagement and support as need arises.

We sincerely thank the Monona Grove School District Board of Education for the opportunity to develop this recommendation. We also want to thank the community and all Monona Grove staff who provided insights and feedback as the process moved forward. The committee looks forward to discussing these recommendations with the full School Board.

Information posted to MGSD, TPS and CGS websites
Email to all staff (via staff newsletter) & all families
Email to families with children under 4 years old in MG Census
Press release / Herald Independent
Information and resources provided to area realtors
Information in family newsletters to TPS and CGS families
Village website (request)
Resources and support for teachers ahead of conferences
Information provided to Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce
Late spring 2025: website update including mapping/address search
Late spring 2025: tours and meet and greet at each building (tentative)