Elementary School Attendance Zones Public Meeting October 20, 2025

2023 Bond Facility Projects

- New high school located at Southwest corner of Williams Road and FM 2484 (next to Baylor Scott & White clinic and across the street from the current high school)
- Renovate current high school to alleviate overcrowding at Thomas Arnold Elementary School
- Renovate and expand Thomas Arnold Elementary School TAE-2 building into one elementary school building
- New stadium located on Williams Road

Sequence of projects

+ Construction of the new stadium at the same time as the new high school would result in the following benefits:

1. Only disrupt Williams Road with facility construction for two years instead of four years

2. Save $2 or $3 million in construction and arbitrage costs

3. Avoid having to still use current high school, Salado Middle School, and TAE-3 building of Thomas Arnold Elementary School for high school athletics

4. Avoid delay of some of the renovations of the current high school facility

Grade level alignment of elementary schools

+ Converting or current high school into a preK-5th grade elementary school and splitting elementary school attendance zones would result in the following benefits:

1. It will be easier to schedule specials (PE, art, music), lunches, recess, common planning periods with a smaller number of students and teachers in each grade level.

2. It will provide greater opportunity for vertical teaming for the elementary school faculty.

3. It will avoid having all of the STAAR testing and academic accountability at the 3rd-5th grade campus and none at the preK-2nd grade campus.

Grade level alignment of elementary schools

+ Converting or current high school into a preK-5th grade elementary school and splitting elementary school attendance zones would result in the following benefits:

4. It will save money by centralizing some programs (i.e., life skills, behavior, bilingual, etc.) instead of having to provide all of these programs at both schools.

5. Students will only have three campus transitions instead of four.

6. Parents with students in both preK-2nd and 3rd-5th will only need to drive to one campus each morning and afternoon instead of two campuses.

Grade level alignment of elementary schools

+ Converting or current high school into a preK-5th grade elementary school and splitting elementary school attendance zones would result in the following benefits:

7. Buses will only need to drive to one elementary school campus instead of both.

8. Traffic and car lines will be reduced at both elementary campuses by not having parents and buses driving to both schools.

9. The vast majority, if not all, larger districts (i.e., Belton, Temple, Killeen, Georgetown, Round Rock, etc.) have preK-5th grade alignments. The other school districts in our 4A UIL district also have multiple elementary school attendance zones: Burnet (2), Jarrell (3), Lampasas (2), Marble Falls (4), and Taylor (2)

Grade level alignment of elementary schools

+ Converting or current high school into a preK-5th grade elementary school and splitting elementary school attendance zones would result in the following benefits:

10. At the rate of our enrollment growth, our two elementary campuses will reach capacity in the next few years and then we will need another elementary school to add capacity. It doesn't make sense to split into preK-1st, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th campuses at that point. It would also be very unrealistic from a geographic standpoint given the location of the next elementary school will likely be several miles away from our other schools. It would be much easier to split into two preK-5th schools now and then three preK-5th schools later than having to split from preK-2nd/3rd-5th campuses into three preK-5th campuses at that time.

Grade level alignment of elementary schools

- This plan was recommended by our campus and district administrators at our school board meeting on September 23, 2024.
- The school board approved this plan unanimously (7-0).
- I included that information in my weekly Salado Village Voice article and eNews e-mail to all of the parents and employees in the school district in October 2024.
- For the past 13 months, we have been working on facility designs, attendance zones, and staffing for two preK-5th elementary schools beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

Elementary school attendance zones

- We purchased software that calculates enrollments based on different attendance zone options.
- Our goal is to have two outstanding elementary schools that are balanced regarding enrollments, demographics and facilities.
- We plan on allowing transfers between the two elementary schools, based on facility capacity and certain parameters to keep the enrollments of the grade levels and campuses balanced. Parents that transfer their student(s) to the other elementary school will be required to provide transportation to and from school.