

Why is Rock Hill Schools reviewing high school attendance boundaries?

Our high school boundaries have not been reviewed since South Pointe High School opened in 2005. School districts often evaluate attendance boundaries following the census every 10 years, or more frequently when significant development occurs. Rock Hill Schools has not. Over the past 21 years, our community has grown, new neighborhoods have developed and enrollment patterns have changed. This review is intended to better balance enrollment, maximize the use of existing facilities and support diverse student populations.

Why now?

The Board has established facility utilization and student assignment priorities as part of its goals and the superintendent's evaluation. The 14-member Community Facilities Master Plan Task Force believes we can make better use of South Pointe, our newest high school, while easing capacity pressures at our two older high schools. Both the process of creating a task force and the task force members themselves were approved by the Rock Hill Schools Board of Trustees 7-0.

How are our high schools currently being utilized?

Northwestern High is at approximately 88% capacity, Rock Hill High at 87%, and South Pointe High at 60%. With the proposed boundaries, utilization is projected to become more balanced over four years, with Northwestern at 77%, Rock Hill High at 82%, and South Pointe at 78%.

Who developed the proposed boundaries?

A professional demographer analyzed student population, enrollment and facility utilization information in alignment with Board policy. A 14-member community task force reviewed the options and provided recommendations. Members include: Allyn Foster (Chair), Julia Khaled, Mike Ligon, John Lindemann, Antonio Mickel, Tim Newport, Pat Maness, Tynetta Moore Cathcart, Maggie Schwietert, Gary Simrill, Leane Skroban, Linda Walker, Conar Webster, Gary Williams.

How was the community task force established?

The task force includes 14 community members. Seven members were appointed by the Board of Trustees and seven by the superintendent. To ensure an independent process, members could not be current elected officials, candidates for public office or individuals who could financially benefit from the recommendations.

What factors were considered when it came to the new boundaries?

The review was guided by Board Policy JCR, which calls for maximizing the use of school facilities and supporting diverse populations. The process examined enrollment, capacity, geographic boundaries and demographic data.

Are the proposed boundaries final?

The proposed map will be presented to the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, October 27, 2026. Community members are welcome to attend the meeting and share their thoughts during the public comment portion. The district will communicate the Board's decision and any next steps.

Will my current high school student be required to attend their newly zoned school?

No. Current high school students whose attendance zones change can choose to remain at their current high school or attend their newly zoned high school. No current high school student will be required to change schools.

What if I have children of different ages?

Families with younger siblings within three grade levels of a current 9th - 11th grade high school student will have the option to attend the same high school as their older sibling or their newly zoned high school. For example, if someone currently has a ninth grader and a sixth grader, the younger sibling can choose to attend the same high school as their older sibling when they reach ninth grade. This flexibility ensures families won't have to manage children at two different high schools unless they choose to.

I have a middle school student. How will the proposed changes affect them?

The new high school attendance boundaries would take effect beginning with incoming ninth graders (current eighth graders) in the 2027–2028 school year. Your child's high school assignment will be based on the new boundaries, unless they qualify for the sibling option to attend the same high school as an older sibling.

How many students would initially be affected?

Approximately 245 rising ninth graders will be assigned to a different high school attendance zone in 2027–2028 under the proposed map. This figure does not include how many students may ultimately exercise sibling options.

Will transportation be provided?

Yes. Transportation will be provided for all students, including those attending under sibling provisions.

When would the changes begin?

The proposed changes would begin in the 2027–2028 school year with incoming ninth graders. Current high school students will have the option to remain at their existing school or attend their newly zoned high school.

Are elementary and middle school attendance boundaries changing?

No. This proposal applies only to the three comprehensive high schools: Northwestern, Rock Hill High and South Pointe.

Why does the proposed map look different?

The proposed map establishes more continuous attendance boundaries and removes satellite attendance zones, sometimes called cutouts, that currently separate portions of an attendance area from its larger zone.

Will students still have access to quality educational opportunities?

Rock Hill Schools remains committed to strong academic programs, student opportunities and supportive learning environments at all three high schools. All 3 of our high schools scored well on our state report card and are wonderful options. This review focused on attendance boundaries and enrollment distribution.

2025-2026 SC Report Card Data:

Northwestern: Good

Rock Hill High: Average

South Pointe: Good

How can I see whether my address is affected?

Review the proposed attendance boundary map on the district website.