

DEMOGRAPHICS TRENDS AND FACILITIES RECOMMENDATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the history of examination of Roosevelt facility needs?

- 2016 -- Demographics Trends & Facility Planning Committee examined options to address enrollment and facility needs at Roosevelt. It explored renovation, replacement on same site, and replacement at a different site. The group recommended replacement on a different site based on cost.
- August 2016 -- Roosevelt was not included in the 2016 referendum based on feedback from the community and the total amount of referendum the community indicated it would support.
- 2017-2018 -- The Demo Trends Committee continues to study district needs, shifting its focus from Roosevelt as a single school to the District as a whole.
- May 2018 -- The Demo Trends Committee votes to rescind previous recommendation of replacing Roosevelt based on three things: Need for additional 4K classrooms, under-enrollment in neighboring schools, schools at or near capacity in other areas of the District.
- October 2018 -- The Demo Trends Committee recommends repurposing Roosevelt to 4K, and utilize surrounding elementary schools to serve the Roosevelt attendance area.

Has the School Board already decided which option they will choose?

- No. The Board is seeking feedback from the community through listening sessions. The committee recommended that a decision be made in the spring of 2019.

When will the changes in elementary boundaries take place?

- The boundaries have not been changed as a decision has not been made. The Board is seeking community input regarding possible solutions to challenges the District is facing prior to making any decisions.

Why were District-wide needs not considered prior to the last referendum?

- District-wide needs were considered with the most recent referendum. Listening sessions prior to the referendum helped us understand what tax amount the community would support, and a survey indicated that if we went above a certain amount, there was a good chance the referendum wouldn't pass. Therefore, Roosevelt and South were not included in the referendum.

How did the committee project enrollments within the new boundaries?

- The committee plotted every student in the District based on their current address. As new boundaries were drawn, the students within those areas were removed from their current school's enrollment and added to their new school's enrollment.

How will boundary changes at the elementary level impact where students attend middle school?

- The Board is seeking information from the community regarding this question. Currently, middle schools are the only schools in the District that use a “feeder school” model, meaning where a student attends elementary determines his/her middle school placement.
- One option is to continue a feeder school model, meaning students who switch elementary schools may switch high schools. Another option is to use geographical boundaries for middle schools like the District does for elementary and high schools.

What are the overall potential boundary changes? Where can I find out if boundaries in my area could change?

- The committee has drafted potential boundary changes for elementary schools in the northern part of the District. Maps of those changes can be found on the Demographic Trends Committee website.
- The committee has not drafted changes for elementary schools in the southern part of the District as the construction would likely need a referendum.

Why is it projected to cost \$16.5 - 19.4 million to keep Roosevelt as an elementary school, but only \$1.5 - 3 million to have Roosevelt as a 4K Site?

- Renovation of Roosevelt for conversion to a 4K site is significantly less expensive than the cost estimates for making Roosevelt a 3-section school. This is because converting Roosevelt to 4K does not require. . .
 - the addition of more classrooms, larger media center, new kitchen, cafeteria, gymnasium, resource spaces, enlarged office area, etc. whereas enlarging Roosevelt to a 3-4 section school does.
 - the purchase of additional land. Enlarging Roosevelt to a 3-4 section school would require purchasing additional land and installation of more drives, sidewalks, etc.
 - the installation of new electrical, gas or water infrastructure. Enlarging Roosevelt to a 3-4 section school would require all these improvements.
 - a larger playground. It would require new age appropriate play structures.

You’ve said that “common areas” at Roosevelt need to be improved. How do the Roosevelt “common areas” compare to other elementary schools?

- “Common areas” are the areas of a school that all students use, and sometimes have several classes at a time using them simultaneously. The table below shows the square footage of those areas at Roosevelt Elementary and at a recently renovated elementary school.

	Roosevelt	Robbins
Gym	2,131 SF	8,525 SF
Kitchen/Serving/Storage	1,176 SF	2,332 SF
Cafeteria	1,500 SF	3,136 SF
Media Center	2,265 SF	3,300 SF

What is Little Red used for right now?

- Little Red is used for storage of surplus district equipment/furnishings that cannot be accommodated in our schools. Items are constantly being moved in and out of the building to service staff/student needs.
- The site is used to store topsoil, gravel, etc. that is used for site improvements across the District.

How much would it cost for Little Red to become the second Prairie Ridge?

- The cost to reopen Little Red for any school is estimated at \$2 million.
- There may be additional costs to accommodate for children under five such as toilets, sinks, and drinking fountains. Additional adjustments to provide for younger, smaller children have not been estimated.
- Little Red was built as a one section elementary school, meaning there is enough room for one class at each grade level. At full capacity it can serve approximately 150 students.

Should Little Red be reopened as an elementary school to relieve enrollment in the southern part of the District?

- The cost to reopen Little Red as a one-section elementary school is estimated at \$2 million.
- Little Red was built as a one section elementary school, meaning there is enough room for one class at each grade level. At full capacity it can serve approximately 150 students. Although it could provide short term relief for capacity issues, it would not solve the long-term issues at the elementary level.
- There are safety concerns with the location of Little Red as it's located on a busy highway. Because of that, 100% of the students who attend Little Red are bussed.
- The schools near Little Red are nearing capacity. The committee has not examined boundaries in the southern part of the District.

Could Little Red be expanded to become a larger elementary school or a larger 4K site?

- In addition to the estimated \$2 million dollars to reopen the school, expanding Little Red for any purpose would escalate the costs significantly as it would require either fire separating the building into small compartmentalized areas or adding a fire protection system. Since there is not public water service to Little Red, underground tanks, pumps, etc. would be needed to provide enough water storage to fight a building fire.

What would the cost be if the District expanded Prairie Ridge to accommodate twice as many kids?

- The projected cost for adding to Prairie Ridge is between \$11.3 and \$11.5 million dollars. Prairie Ridge has 42,283 square feet. At \$250/square feet, we have \$10.5 million for additional construction costs plus around \$300,000 for fire protecting the existing building and another \$500,000-\$700,000 for normal site development.
- Expanding to twice the size of the current building presents challenges due to the existing site layout and underlying bedrock. This most likely adds another \$0.5M to the costs.

Are districts required to provide 4K programming? Do we have to provide it to every child?

- 4K is not required. However, ECASD made the decision to include 4K in its programming over a decade ago.
- The District receives funding to provide 4K programming.
- Any four-year-old who applies is enrolled. There are no waiting lists for 4K.

As the 4K program has continued to grow in the District, what options has the District explored to accommodate the demand?

- Since moving to Prairie Ridge, the 4K program had adequate space until the last two years. We have added one additional classroom (a.m. & p.m.) for each the last two years. We also bus overflow students to specific community sites.

Is 4K being expanded to an all-day program?

- Prairie Ridge provides services for Head Start, and extended duration for Head Start will impact Prairie Ridge. If funding is provided for extended duration, our 123 Head Start students at Prairie Ridge will require full day programming, which causes a space issue. The District anticipates this change will occur within the next 2-4 years.

Solving daycare issues for their employees is a top priority for the university. Why doesn't the District partner with UWEC?

- The District partners with the UWEC Nature Academy and has since the beginning of the program. We have two classrooms (3 sections) of 4K programming at the Nature Center.
- 4K programming is one year of programming between birth and kindergarten. Although we partner with the University for 4K, we do not partner with them to provide programming prior to 4K.

Why is the growth on the north side not being taken into consideration?

- The committee consulted with city planners and clerks from surrounding townships to determine potential areas of growth/construction.
- There are several developments in the northern part of the city, and the ECASD believes the district will continue to grow because of those. In the elementary schools near these developments, there's room for 800 additional students.
- The developments in the south are outside of the city limits but within the ECASD. In the elementary schools near these developments only 200 seats are available.

Could the District relieve all elementary enrollment issues by shifting students from the southern part of the District to schools in the northern part? Could we avoid adding to a southern elementary school by doing this?

- There are approximately 1,000 seats available in elementary schools throughout the District. Approximately 800 of those are in the northern part of the District and 200 in the southern part of the District.

- The committee did not draft boundaries for this scenario. If community listening sessions or the Board would like the committee to do so, such boundary shifts could be developed.

Does the Dual Immersion program change this recommendation? Will there be enough room if that program starts?

- The committee considered the Dual Immersion program in its recommendations. The proposed boundary maps include options for boundaries with Dual Immersion and without Dual Immersion.

Roosevelt doesn't have a Literacy Coach. Is that because it's a smaller school?

- No, there is currently a 1.0 vacancy for Roosevelt as well as two other elementary schools in the District. Those vacancies have been advertised throughout the school year, however no viable candidates have been identified. The District continues its search.

My kids like to ride their bikes to school and it's healthy for them. Don't you want them to continue this?

- We love to see students ride their bikes or walk to school! Changing boundaries may change the way that your child gets to school. Walking, biking, bussing, or riding in a car each offer opportunities, and no matter how your child is getting to school, we want it to be a positive experience.
- During the 2017-18 school year, Roosevelt took part in a Safe Routes to School study. Although 66% of Roosevelt students live within a mile of school, only 25% of families reported their students ride their bikes or walk to school.

If we knew by the end of the school year regarding the changes, could kindergarten families choose to attend their new school in 2019-20?

- A plan to support and transition students and families will be developed after the Board decides which option the District will pursue.