



School Attendance Areas

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

The Lafayette Parish School System (District) seeks to provide educationally sound and cost-effective schools located as near to students' homes as possible. The District shall adhere to Louisiana and Federal law and Lafayette Parish School System (Board) Policy.

The superintendent shall report on the current attendance zones at a minimum of every 3 years. The report shall contain current population of schools, population of the current attendance zones, and the projected growth in population of the parish. A recommendation(s) for modification of attendance zones to accommodate population gain/loss will be made to the Board.

The zone modifications will be adopted with as much advance notice as is reasonably possible to allow parents their full range of options regarding their child's education. In the instances where slight spot zone modifications are being made LPSS will open academy lotteries where space is available to give parents an option for their children.

RULE:

A. RECOMMENDED SIZE OF SCHOOLS:

Size of schools shall be in accordance with the average school enrollment for similarly organized schools elsewhere in the District.

B. CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. School Attendance Zone Modifications:

The District should give balanced consideration to the following criteria when establishing or revising school attendance zones:

- a. Efficient and effective school sizes and enrollment;
- b. Time, distance and safety of students traveling between home and school; and
- c. Efficiency of feeder patterns.

No student shall be assigned or compelled to attend any school on the basis of race, creed, color, or national origin, or for the purpose of achieving equality in attendance, or increased or reduced attendance at any school of persons of one or more particular race, creed, color, or national origin.

2. School Closure:

The District should give balanced consideration to the following criteria when considering closure of schools:

- a. Enrollment falls significantly below the average school enrollment for similarly organized schools elsewhere in the District;

- b. The school is in need of extensive renovation to meet current state and system facility standards;
- c. Schools located in contiguous attendance areas have sufficient capacity to accommodate students; and
- d. The school may provide greater value to the District if sold or utilized in a different manner.

PROCESS:

1. Establishment of School Attendance Zones for New Schools:

When a new school is opened, the District will utilize population density analysis to propose attendance zones for the new school and the existing schools impacted by its opening.

Prior to establishing or revising school attendance, the Board shall:

- a. Develop two or more alternate proposed plans establishing or revising attendance zones. Such alternate plans must be made available to the public at least 24 hours prior to the public hearing at which they will be discussed; and
- c. The Board will conduct a minimum of one public hearing to allow input from the public on the proposed plans establishing or revising attendance zones. Reasonable notice shall be provided prior to a public hearing. (A well-defined public hearing process will be established).

2. Revision of School Attendance Zones for Existing Schools:

Attendance Zone changes may occur for existing schools even when there is no redistricting due to the opening of a new school. In these instances, the following minimum steps shall be taken:

- a. Map(s) of the new attendance zone for the affected school(s) should be:
 - (1) Developed by the appropriate division; and
 - (2) Presented to the Superintendent.
- b. The Superintendent may approve the proposed adjustments or return them with suggestions for further study.
- c. Once approved by the Superintendent, these attendance zone adjustments shall be submitted to the Board for adoption.

3. Revision of School Attendance Zones for New Developments:

The construction of new developments of homes or other dwellings may necessitate the development being moved from one attendance zone to another in order to place the new development in a single attendance zone, to more nearly balance school enrollments, or to facilitate transportation requirements. Unless the Board directs that the District utilize the procedures outlined above for the revision of attendance zones for existing schools, the following procedures should be followed:

- a. Recommended attendance zones adjustments shall be:
 - (1) Developed by the appropriate division; and
 - (2) Presented to the Superintendent.
- b. The Superintendent may approve the proposed adjustments or return them with suggestions for further study.
- c. Once approved by the Superintendent, these attendance zone adjustments shall be submitted to the Board for adoption.

4. **School Closure:**

The following minimum steps shall be taken prior to closure of a school:

- a. Conduct a minimum of one public hearing and provide an opportunity for full discussion of the proposal to close such school or schools.
- b. The public hearing(s) shall be advertised in a local newspaper of general circulation which shall be the same newspaper in which other legal announcements of the District are advertised and shall include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) Identification of each school to be closed and location of each new or existing school to which the students in the school or schools to be closed will be reassigned;
 - (2) Proposed size of each new school in terms of number of students and grade configuration;
 - (3) Proposed expansion of existing schools designed to accommodate students being reassigned from the school or schools to be closed;
 - (4) Total cost for school construction projects required to house students being reassigned from the school or schools to be closed. Local costs shall include identifying proposed sources of funds, whether from bond referendum proceeds or other sources; and
 - (5) Plans for use or disposal of closed school property.

AFFECTED STUDENTS:

When attendance zone changes are made for any of the above reasons, the eligible student(s) affected may elect to remain in the school which they currently attend or enroll and attend the school in their approved attendance zone as described below.

1. **HIGH SCHOOL:**

- a. When attendance zone changes occur at the high school level, rising twelfth-grade students and siblings attending the school may remain at their current school for one year.
- b. When a new high school is opened, it will not have a twelfth-grade class in its first year of operation.

2. **MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

- a. When attendance zone changes occur at the middle school level, rising eighth-grade students and siblings attending the school may elect to continue to attend their current middle school for one year.

3. **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

- a. When attendance zone changes occur at the elementary school level, rising fourth grade students in a K-4 School- or fifth-grade students in a K-5 School and siblings attending the school may elect to continue to attend their current elementary school for one year.

TRANSPORTATION:

1. **Elementary/Middle/High School:**

- a. When attendance zone changes occur, a student shall be eligible for bus transportation if he/she elects to attend the school in the approved attendance zone.
- b. The parent/guardian shall provide transportation should the student elect to remain at the school he/she currently attends.

2. **High School Senior Class:**

Transportation will be provided to these seniors to the school they currently attend.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) – **Section 1 Eligibility** (1.12.1 #4 pg. 26)
sites: **New Member Schools:** *A student who has already attended a member school in that athletic attendance zone shall be granted a new option when a “new” member school is added to that athletic attendance zone. This choice shall be afforded only at the beginning of the first year the “new” school is in operation in the athletic attendance zone.*