

Email to Affected Campuses
March 5, 2026

Information About Attendance Zone Changes for Next School Year (2026 – 2027)

Dear Parents & Staff at Buda, Carpenter Hill, Elm Grove, and Sunfield Elementaries; as well as Dahlstrom and McCormick Middle Schools,

I have some updated information about a few adjustments to our school zones for next year that were recently approved by the Board of Trustees at the administration's recommendation. Most of you receiving this email are likely not affected individually, but because it affects your campus, I want you to be aware. For those who are affected individually, you do not need to take any action right now and this email will outline the options you have (to stay at your current campuses or move to your new campuses).

Who is Affected

At the elementary level, a few students from the current Buda attendance zone (about 30) will move to Carpenter Hill or Elm Grove; and a few students from Sunfield (about 50) will move to Buda. At the middle school level, a group of McCormick students (about 25) will move to Dahlstrom. These existing students were moved as part of larger attendance zone changes to pre-zone areas that are being developed for growth in the near future.

We have a special information page about the changes at www.hayscisd.net/zone2026.

Current Students Can Remain at Current Campuses

As part of the changes, all current students affected may remain at their current campuses if parents wish to keep them there. The only difference would be with school bus transportation. The current school buses in the affected zones will reroute next year to the new campus zones. Parents who wish to remain at their current campuses in the rezoned areas would need to provide transportation to remain at their current campuses. Students affected by changes who wish to attend their new campuses will be able to ride the school buses if they are bus eligible.

How Do I Know for Sure If I am Affected and What Do I Do?

In April, the district will open student registration for next school year. The online student registration system will show which campuses students are set to attend according to the new school zones for next year. Most of you will see that your children are set for their current elementary or middle schools. In those cases, you would just register for school as normal.

Some will see a new elementary or middle school campus assignment (either Elm Grove, Carpenter Hill, Buda, or Dahlstrom). If you want your child to go to the new campus, you would just need to register as normal.

Parents who see new campuses, but want to remain at their current campuses (either Buda, Sunfield, or McCormick) would need to follow the instructions on the registration system to "apply for a transfer" back to their current campuses. All parents affected by this involuntary rezone will

have guaranteed approval to transfer their children back to their current campuses. Those who do will receive confirmation emails within a few days after registering their children and indicating they want transfers to remain at this year's schools. Note again that students transferring to remain at their current campuses will need to have transportation to school because school buses in the affected neighborhoods will be running to the newly zoned schools.

We have the new attendance zone maps for next year added as a layer to our district's interactive map. Use the menu on the left to toggle between which zones you want to have showing on your screen (elementary, middle, high school, this year, or next year). The map is at:

www.hayscisd.net/zonemap.

Accommodating Growth & Alleviating Overcrowding

Our goal is to make this transition as easy as possible for those affected because we know that, while necessary in a fast-growth school district like Hays CISD, changing attendance zones can be disruptive to families. These most recent map changes will help with some current and future overcrowding at some of our schools, but these changes are not the only measures underway. Two additional big changes that are in the works include the construction of a new elementary school to relieve the anticipated continued student population growth at Sunfield Elementary School. And, the possible construction of a seventh middle school in the district to do the same for McCormick Middle School. Voters have approved (in the May 2025 bond) the construction of the new area elementary school, which should open in the next few years. Voters have approved the design and planning costs for the new middle school, but would still need to approve its construction on a future bond in the next year or so if that is the will of the electorate.

Thanks for all you do and for choosing Hays CISD as your school district family.

Sincerely,
Tim Savoy
Chief Communication Officer
Hays CISD