

Elementary Transition Plan Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where is the attendance boundary for Bennington Elementary and Pine Creek Elementary?

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade residing north of State Street will attend Bennington Elementary. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade residing south of State Street will attend Pine Creek Elementary.

For the 2009-2010 school year only, all sixth grade students, including those residing south of State Street, will attend Bennington Elementary.

The Bennington Public School's Preschool program will remain at Bennington Elementary.

2. What criteria were used to determine that all sixth grade students would attend Bennington Elementary for the 2009-2010 school year?

Consideration was given to the number of sixth grade students residing north and south of State Street. The number of sixth grade students residing south of State Street was limited. It was determined to be in the best educational interest of the students to allow all sixth grade students to remain at Bennington Elementary for the 2009-2010 school year.

Siblings of the sixth grade students who reside south of State Street have a one-year option to attend Bennington Elementary or their home school, Pine Creek Elementary.

3. How will student transportation be determined?

Free transportation will be provided to all students who reside more than four miles from their school of attendance.

Transportation will also be offered, at a cost, for students who encounter what administration determines to be an unsafe route to school.

Sixth grade students and their siblings who reside south of State Street will be offered transportation to Bennington Elementary for the 2009-2010 school year. Students who live more than four miles will receive free transportation. Students who live more than one mile, but less than four miles, may receive transportation at a cost.

4. Will students who reside in one elementary attendance area be able to transfer to the other elementary attendance area?

It is the recommendation of the Administration that Bennington Elementary and Pine Creek Elementary be closed to open enrollment due to the volume of growth the School District experiences on an annual basis. Parents or guardians who deem they have an educational reason to request a student transfer within the District may obtain, complete, and return a request form to the resident building principal. The superintendent will make a determination based on the educational impact for the individual student.

5. My family resides closer to one elementary, but is in the attendance area of the other. Why are we not able to attend the closest elementary?

Every effort was made by the School Board and the administration to set school boundaries that would reflect current enrollment trends, housing projections, a balance for attendance areas, and create a long range vision for the District.

6. How will you ensure equity among elementary staffs?

Five current staff members have been selected to serve as part of a core team for each elementary school. These staff members were selected based on their experience, willingness to assist with a smooth transition, effective communication skills, and duties currently assigned. All certified staff placement will be determined by April 1. Several criteria will be used to create an equitable staff for each building that represents experience, individual strengths, and a variety of extra-curricular opportunities.

Bennington Elementary Core Team

Mr. Chad Boyes (Principal)
Mrs. Wendy Andersen
Mrs. Kellie Backlund
Mrs. Karen Brostad
Mrs. Candi DeLancey
Mrs. Kris Melvin

Pine Creek Elementary Core Team

Mrs. Shannon Thoendel (Principal)
Mr. Scott Heese
Mrs. Denise Klaus
Mrs. Emily Panning
Mrs. Teresa Rischling
Mrs. Sherri Sowers

7. Will both schools offer the same curricular opportunities?

The District curriculum is based on the Nebraska State Standards. The Bennington Elementary and Pine Creek Elementary will offer the same quality educational opportunities. Staff from both elementary schools will serve on District-wide curriculum committees to ensure consistency and equity.

8. What opportunities for before and after school childcare are available for families?

The Bennington Public Schools Foundation will open a second site at Pine Creek Elementary. This will offer approximately 60 more openings between the two sites. Families previously enrolled in the program will have first priority. All other openings will be filled by a lottery system.

9. How can I receive more information regarding the elementary transition plan?

Email Shannon Theondel at sthoendel@esu3.org or
Chad Boyes at cboyes@esu3.org.