

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding CMCSS Zoning

Will there be any options for grandfathering students in their current school?

We continue to hear the feedback that families are sharing on this topic. Ultimately, a grandfathering plan will be a board decision. Currently, we have heard the following concerns from stakeholders that may need to be considered for possible grandfathering or exceptions to the proposed boundary lines:

- Rising 8th graders for affected middle schools
- Rising juniors and seniors for affected high schools
- Military families
- Particular neighborhood concerns based on proximity
- Families with multiple students in the same household attending schools at different complexes

The Zoning Committee has been reviewing all of these feedback points from families. It plans to make a recommendation to the board that will include exceptions they may consider to provide as much family choice as possible while still allowing our schools to make the best use of their capacity.

I'm worried about my student/my student's school bus traveling on the interstate.

CMCSS buses travel over 3.4 million miles each year. Our school buses utilize every arterial, collector, and local roadway throughout Montgomery County each day. Thirteen CMCSS school buses safely travel on I-24 with students to and from school every day. In addition, CMCSS allows almost 200 school buses carrying students annually to travel on I-24 for out-of-county extracurricular activities safely. School buses are designed and constructed using compartmentalization, making school buses the safest way for students to get to and from school.

The boundary of Rossvie Middle School has extended to the far eastern edge of Montgomery County, north of I-24, since its opening in 1998. Due to the larger size of CMCSS schools, school buses have been utilized to transport students on I-24 to Rossvie for the past 24 years. A Rossvie school bus (19-04) already travels along Sango Road to reach students North of I-24.

This (Rezoning) will create a transportation nightmare. We are experiencing a driver shortage - won't this rezoning just cause more issues for transportation?

The labor shortages that we are experiencing with drivers is a separate issue that is not improved or worsened by opening a new school. Building a new school does not mean the district will require more buses or more drivers. It will involve a reallocation of the resources the District already has. While we are experiencing the impact of this national labor shortage, CMCSS students are already riding on school buses. Those buses will be re-routed to Kirkwood or other newly rezoned schools with no additional cost to the district. Schedules will be adjusted accordingly with minimal time impact or expected delays.

In the Sango area, we would utilize two of the five current buses to transport all middle school students to Rossvie Middle. The new routes would combine multiple existing routes. The remaining three buses would transport all high school students in the newly rezoned area.

- Sango (2.8 mi versus 5.2 mi)
- Reserve of Sango Mills: Current distance is 5.01 mi, pick-up time of 6:39 a.m.
- The New Distance: 6.359 mi, pick-up time of 6:42 a.m.
- Difference: 1.349 mi and the time is three minutes later

In the Peachtree/Griffey Estates area, we would be able to utilize the current double-run buses to bus students to and from Kenwood Middle & High and the remaining West Creek High students for the 22/23 school year. There would be no added buses or time changes.

- Griffey Estates (1.2 mi versus 2.8 mi)
- Griffey Estates: Current distance is 1.975 mi pickup time of 6:46 a.m.
- The New Distance: 2.721 mi, pick-up time of 6:46 a.m.
- Difference: 0.746 mi and time is no change in pick up

In the Tylertown area, we would utilize five of the ten current buses to transport all middle school students to Kirkwood Middle. The routes would combine multiple routes. The remaining five buses would be utilized to transport all high school students. In addition, the majority of buses would travel backroads to Kirkwood Middle instead of using I-24 due to proximity.

- Tylertown (2.7 mi versus 12 mi)
- Above Tylertown (Parade dr): Current distance is 3.002 mi pick-up time of 6:43 a.m.
- The New Distance: 11.315 mi pick-up time of 6:33 a.m.
- Difference: 8.313 mi and time is 10 minutes earlier

The goal should be to rezone as few students as possible or keep them as close to their current school as possible. Why are we rezoning this way?

Based on feedback CMCSS has received from community leaders in attempting to address capacity issues for the last few years, it was not feasible to add capacity without considering a comprehensive rezoning strategy to move as many students as possible. While CMCSS has attempted to rezone as few students as possible (19% of middle schoolers and 18% of high schoolers; 9% of all students), the major goal of rezoning is to balance capacities at all schools to utilize the newly constructed buildings best, relieve overcrowding across the entire county, and prepare for future growth. Around 67% of the students who are rezoned in this concept are slated to attend the new Kirkwood Middle and High schools. This shift opens capacity, most notably at Northeast and Rossvie, allowing other boundary modifications to relieve current and projected capacity concerns at other schools.

Why are students passing their current school to go to their new school?

To ensure safety and efficiency, we route our fleet to transport students in the most direct travel path to their intended destination. As a result, buses do not pass another school unless the zone line causes us to do so. Memorial Drive has been the boundary between school zones for 11 years (2011), and families can choose to use this route.

What is the School System doing to address students' social and emotional needs who will have to move?

CMCSS has a team of district leaders committed to driving social and emotional learning initiatives in the district. That team is being brought in to hear the feedback we have received from families and develop a plan to ensure students who move to a new school will have the necessary support to adapt to the new school environment.

I'm worried that my student with special needs will not have the same level of service they are receiving at our current school.

Every school is equipped with special education personnel based on their current staffing needs to meet core support, intervention, and related services. Program-specific placement, such as Comprehensive Development Classrooms and Developmental Pre-K at the elementary level, often get moved from year to year based on the capacity of the schools. Regarding both areas of concern, students will transition with their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), which are followed in all schools. There would not be any disruption to the continuity of services as they are written in the IEP. If specific concerns need to be addressed, we are here to support parents and schools with those concerns.