

September 6, 2018

Dear Commonwealth Elementary Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you about our plans to address the overutilization of Commonwealth Elementary and ensure a positive and supportive learning environment for all CWE students. As you are likely aware, Commonwealth Elementary is located in a community that continues to grow, and the projected enrollment for 2018-19 is above capacity.

Prior to the start of the current school year, two temporary buildings were added to the campus to support expected enrollment growth. As we have continued to monitor enrollment and the utilization of the school's common areas, we have determined that further action will be necessary to maintain a quality learning environment for our students until a more permanent solution can be implemented, which could include the construction of a new school in the area.

Managing Enrollment

Effective today, we will begin limiting new enrollment at Commonwealth Elementary and will only accept new students who live within a two-mile radius of the school – and therefore would be ineligible for bus transportation to CWE. **All newly-enrolling students who live beyond the two-mile radius will be re-directed to Settlers Way Elementary for the 2018-19 school year, with transportation provided to Settlers Way Elementary instead of CWE.**

This change does not affect any current students who are already enrolled and attending class at CWE, but we want you to be aware of our plans to address continuing growth in this area while maintaining positive and effective learning environments for all students.

As has been the practice in other areas of the District experiencing high-growth, additional staffing will continue to be provided in order to meet our students' needs. Prior to the start of this school year, we added an additional assistant principal to support CWE staff and students, and we will continue to add additional instructional aides to support classrooms that are above the state's staffing ratio.

Continued Planning

As we have previously shared, during the recent Facilities Master Planning process, the need for a new school in the Riverstone area was identified due to the continuing enrollment growth in this area of the District. As a result, the November 6 bond referendum includes funding for a new school if a feasible site can be obtained, and FBISD continues to search for any land that may be available in this area.

If land cannot be obtained, the updated Facilities Master Plan recommends the construction of permanent classroom additions at Commonwealth Elementary, Austin Parkway Elementary and Settlers Way Elementary as an alternative solution.

We are proud of FBISD's schools and value the families who are enrolling their children at our campuses. We are committed to responding to the growth of our District as more families choose to enroll their children in our schools, and we are committed to providing a quality learning environment at each of our campuses. We appreciate your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Joe Rodriguez, Ed. D.
Fort Bend ISD Chief of Schools

Because we understand that you may have questions, we invite parents to submit your questions through Let's Talk. We will be compiling an FAQ and will keep you updated as we continue to monitor growth and plan for the future.