



COMMONWEALTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Updated February 2019

Q: I am moving within the CWE attendance boundary, but we live outside of the two-mile radius. Do they have to attend another school?

A: Students in grades 1-5 who live outside the two-mile radius will be redirected to Settlers Way Elementary, while kindergarten students inside and outside of the two mile radius will be allowed to enroll at Commonwealth Elementary. The limitation on new enrollment was implemented in the 2018-19 school year, and will remain in effect until a more permanent solution (such as construction of a new school, classroom addition, and/or the modification of attendance boundaries) can be implemented. The 2018 Bond Program included funding for a new elementary school, ES 53, which would relieve overutilization of CWE.

Q: Has Fort Bend ISD acquired land for Elementary 53?

A: The land for Elementary 53 has not yet been procured, but in February, the board authorized the District to utilize eminent domain in an effort to negotiate the purchase of land. Should this be successful, the plan would be to open a new school in the 2021-22 school year. If FBISD is unable to finalize acquisition of that site, classroom additions would be constructed at Commonwealth Elementary, Austin Parkway Elementary and Settlers Way Elementary to provide needed classrooms.

Q: I have a child currently enrolled at CWE and will have a kindergartener next year. Where will my kindergartner attend school?

A: For the 2019-20 school year, students entering kindergarten will be able to enroll at CWE, while students in grades 1-5 will enroll at SWE. Should the incoming kindergartner have an older sibling who is currently in overflow at SWE, the parents will have the opportunity to enroll the kindergarten student at SWE to keep the siblings together.

Q: I have a child who currently attends CWE, but their younger sibling attends private school. If I choose to enroll my younger child in public school, can they attend CWE with their sibling?

A: Yes. Families who have a student who is already currently attending CWE, and who have another newly-enrolling student in grades 1-5 will be able to enroll the newly enrolling sibling at CWE.

Q: How is the two-mile radius determined?

A: The two mile radius is determined based on a student's eligibility for bus transportation.

Q: CWE's enrollment has continued to grow throughout the last few years. What safety measures are in place for students and staff who are housed in temporary buildings?

A: Safety is always the District's top priority, and staff works collaboratively with campus personnel to ensure safety procedures are in place for students assigned to portable buildings. These classrooms are to remain locked at all times. Additionally, Fort Bend ISD recently added police officers who are focused on elementary patrols, and they will be regularly monitoring all campuses, including CWE.

Commonwealth Elementary administrators have also implemented the following safety precautions for students in temporary buildings:

- *Upper grade levels are the first to utilize portable buildings, as is common practice in Fort Bend ISD.*
- *While inside the classrooms during the day, students have regularly scheduled restroom breaks, just like other classes in the main building. If a student needs to use the restroom during class, or re-enter the main school building during the day, the buddy system is used and children are escorted by a staff member or paired with another student. Access to the building is provided by the use of key-cards, which are assigned to each classroom teacher.*

Q: I am moving to in Avalon at Riverstone and am currently zoned to Commonwealth. Have I been rezoned to another elementary school?

A: The attendance boundaries for CWE have not changed, but due to overutilization, the District has determined that it will be necessary to limit new enrollment until a more permanent solution can be implemented.

Q: Why was Settlers Way designated as the overflow campus?

A: FBISD is committed to providing the very best learning environment for all students. Settlers Way Elementary has the capacity to accommodate additional students.

Q: Why did the District choose to limit students living outside of the two-mile radius from attending CWE?

A: The decision to limit enrollment to students within the two-mile radius was made after a review of past enrollment trends, and the understanding that recent enrollment growth has been driven by new development.