

Questions and Answers Document - Madden Elementary

Capping Enrollment

Question: Madden Elementary school has only been open for two years. Why has it exceeded its capacity each year? And what is the District doing to prepare for future growth?

Answer: Managing growth is an ongoing and continuous process, particularly along the Grand Parkway corridor. The District has engaged with the community to plan for this growth, beginning with the Facilities Master Plan in 2014. The Facilities Master Plan included recommendations to build Madden Elementary, as well as construction of the District's 49th and 50th elementary schools, which will open in August of 2017 and are funded through the 2014 Bond Program.

Additional collaborative efforts included the creation of a District-wide Feeder Pattern and Boundary plan, which was adopted in 2015. To address growth for the 2016-17 school year, the Pre-K program was removed from the campus, and after focus group discussions and the continued monitoring of enrollment, three portable buildings were added to increase building capacity.

To prepare for future growth, during the 2016-2017 school year, the District engaged the community again regarding the attendance boundary process and it was determined to move some students from the Madden boundary to another FBISD school effective August 2017. Additionally, it was also determined to add another portable building for the 2017-2018 year to increase the building capacity. Due to space limitations, we will not exceed four portable buildings. There has been some discussion regarding the possibility of another elementary school in the Grand Parkway corridor, although these conversations have been preliminary, as construction of the District's 51st Elementary School was not included in the 2014 Bond Program.

Throughout this school year, the District has continued to closely monitor enrollment while also considering the projections for the future, in accordance with the District's annual enrollment review. Knowing that the projected enrollment will exceed building capacity, it has been determined to cap enrollment at Madden Elementary for students enrolling in grades 1-5 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Question: How long will enrollment be capped at Madden? How long will students attend the overflow campus, Oyster Creek Elementary? What are the plans for a future school in Aliana?

Answer: At this time, the District plans to cap enrollment at Madden and use Oyster Creek Elementary as the overflow campus until a more permanent solution is identified, such as construction of a new elementary school. Fort Bend ISD will continue to monitor enrollment and projections from its independent demographer, Population and Survey Analysts (PASA), as it makes recommendations for the construction of future schools.

Question: Fort Bend ISD has stated that capping enrollment at Madden Elementary is effective on the last day of school, June 1, 2017. What if enrollment increases significantly and causes overcrowding before June 1?

Answer: The District will monitor enrollment daily and should the need for capping and overflow to Oyster Creek need to occur prior to June 1, the District will communicate accordingly.

Question: Will students currently enrolled at Madden remain at Madden for the 2017-2018 school year? What about future years for students currently enrolled at Madden?

Answer: Yes, all currently enrolled students will remain at Madden unless they withdraw and move to a new residence that is located within a different attendance boundary. The exception is a limited number of students living in the Windsor Estates neighborhood and surrounding area who will transition permanently to Walker Station Elementary beginning in August 2017, in accordance with newly-drawn attendance boundaries, which were adopted in January of 2017. These students/parents have already been notified.

Other students currently enrolled at Madden will remain at Madden unless further attendance boundary changes become necessary due to the opening of a new school or in accordance with FC (Local).

Question: The capping applies to grades 1-5. What about incoming kindergarten students? Will there be kindergarten classes at Madden? Do you expect to cap kindergarten enrollment at some point next year at Madden?

Answer: Students living in the Madden attendance boundary enrolling in kindergarten will enroll and attend Madden. Madden will have a kindergarten cohort in the 2017-2018 school year. At this time, we do not anticipate capping enrollment for kindergarten for next year.

Question: What if a family moves into the Madden attendance boundary and they have a student entering kindergarten and a student(s) entering grades 1-5? Can we keep all of the siblings together at the same school?

Answer: The student entering kindergarten can enroll and attend Madden and the sibling(s) in grades 1-5 will enroll and attend Oyster Creek Elementary. If the parent wants to keep all of the siblings together, they can all enroll and attend Oyster Creek Elementary. Enrollment will be capped for Madden in grades 1-5 therefore, the only way for all siblings to be together is to attend Oyster Creek Elementary.

Question: Will transportation be provided for students attending Oyster Creek Elementary?

Answer: Yes, bus transportation will be provided. The transportation department will communicate with parents regarding details for routes and pick up and drop times. Bus service will continue to be offered for students attending Madden Elementary who qualify for transportation.

Question: I know someone who plans to buy a home in Aliana this summer. Can he/she enroll their student(s) at Madden Elementary during the summer and attend Madden for the 2017-2018 school year?

Answer: In order to attend Madden Elementary, families must reside at the home on or before June 1, 2017. Reside, according to the Texas Education Agency, refers to the place where the student sleeps nightly. To enroll and attend Madden, the student, in grades 1-5, must establish residency, enroll, and be in attendance at Madden on or before June 1, 2017. The only students able to enroll during the summer and attend Madden during the 2017-2018 school year are kindergarten students.

Question: Will the core/shared spaces be overcrowded in outclasses, lunch lines, visitor parking, etc.

Answer: With the capped enrollment and the additional portable building for next year, the campus will be able to accommodate students and parents.

Question: Will intra-district transfers be allowed at Madden for next year?

Answer: No district transfers are allowed at Madden except for students who qualified for the Board Policy FC (Local) provision for rising grade 5 students to remain at Madden who were impacted by the recent attendance boundary changes. These students/parents have already taken action through the transfer process. Further, students already enrolled at Madden will not be forced to withdraw and disrupt their education. Employees who work at Madden may be granted a transfer for their children. Fort Bend ISD employees who do not work at Madden will not be eligible for a transfer to Madden.

Question: Has FBISD ever capped enrollment at another school? Do other school districts cap their enrollment instead of rezoning?

Answer: Yes, FBISD has capped enrollment at three other elementary schools in a similar process, in order to preserve a quality learning environment and minimize the interruption to a student's learning with multiple moves in their elementary years. Both Katy ISD and Cypress-Fairbanks ISD are large districts in our area where capping of enrollment and overflow school plans have been utilized to relieve overcrowding.

Question: How will parents and students new to the neighborhood know about the capped enrollment and overflow campus?

Answer: This information will be posted on the FBISD website and the Madden Elementary website. Fort Bend ISD is also reaching out to developers and realtors in the community to make them aware.

Question: What is Oyster Creek Elementary's school ranking?

Answer: Oyster Creek Elementary received the same rating as Madden Elementary. Both schools met standard according to the criteria set forth by the Texas Education Agency.

Question: What is the student enrollment at Oyster Creek Elementary? Will the students coming from Madden cause that school to be overcrowded?

Answer: The current enrollment at Oyster Creek Elementary is 801 students. The projected enrollment for Oyster Creek is 739 students for next year. The permanent building capacity will increase to 944 students in 2017-18 with the classroom additions funded through the 2014 Bond Program. We do not expect the students coming from Madden to cause the enrollment to exceed capacity. Oyster Creek Elementary will be staffed according to the anticipated 2017-18 enrollment, which includes students registering from the Madden Elementary attendance boundary.