



# West Allis-West Milwaukee School District

## Administration Office

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February 3, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

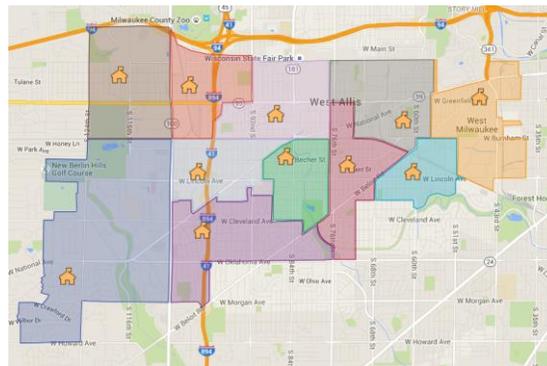
Over the past ten years, board policies related to school attendance areas for residents created enrollment imbalance in our schools. Some families found their neighborhood school was full and other schools experienced an imbalance in Open Enrollment. The Board recognized that attendance area policies needed updating so that we could appropriately utilize our facilities to maximize the educational process in a way that would account for the needs of the whole community. On Monday, February 1, 2016, the Board approved the following elements designed to balance enrollment in the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District:

1. **Approved moving 4K programming into neighborhood schools and keeping 5<sup>th</sup> grade at elementary school:** 4K students will be taught at their neighborhood elementary school and 5th grade students remain at the elementary school level. This allows our teachers and staff to create strong relationships with our newest WAWM students at the onset of their educational journey. It also supports our ability to provide a continuum of educational programming based on student needs as the child progresses through elementary school.
2. **Approved participation in AGR (Achievement Gap Reduction):** Recently, the state government launched new options regarding class size for grades K – 3. In the past, a program called SAGE (in which we participate) required an 18 to 1 student - teacher ratio. By participating in AGR, we can adjust our K – 3 class size based on our needs. We will be able to use AGR funding to provide coaching for teachers and professional development. AGR requires participating schools to create performance goals, including reduction of the achievement gap between low-income students in their schools and students in the same grade and subject statewide. It also requires the district's school board to review implementation and progress in each participating school every semester.

3. **Approved the attendance areas for 4K – 12:** The attendance areas for elementary, intermediate, and high school have been configured so that students can attend their neighborhood school. Attendance area maps are located on the district website [www.wawm.k12.wi.us](http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us) where parents can type in their address to identify their child’s neighborhood school.

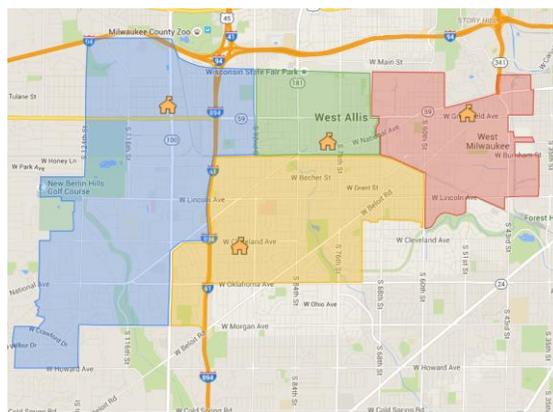
### Elementary School Attendance Areas

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Green = Franklin Attendance Area       |  Pink = Madison Attendance Area        |
|  Dark Blue = Hoover Attendance Area     |  Purple = Mitchell Attendance Area     |
|  Gray = Horace Mann Attendance Area     |  Orange = Pershing Attendance Area     |
|  Light Blue = Irving Attendance Area    |  Brown = Walker Attendance Area        |
|  Red = Jefferson Attendance Area        |  Light purple = Wilson Attendance Area |
|  Turquoise = Longfellow Attendance Area |   |



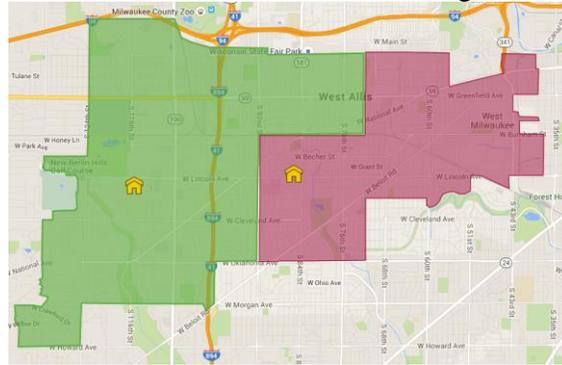
### Intermediate School Attendance Areas

- Blue = Lane
- Green = Lincoln
- Yellow = Frank Lloyd Wright
- Red = West Milwaukee



## High School Attendance Areas

- Maroon = West Allis Central High School
- Green = West Allis Nathan Hale High School



4. **Approved the Intra-District Transfer Policy in light of new attendance areas:** Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, Intra-District transfers must be approved by both the sending school and receiving school. The transfer request is to originate with the school the student currently attends. Once approved, this becomes the student's school until the student transitions to a new grade level (Intermediate or High School).

The reasons for intra-district transfer are:

- Response to legal documentation (e.g., restraint/custody order documentation is required).
- Response to medical documentation (e.g., doctor documentation is required).
- As part of an official resolution involving a formal complaint over a dispute (e.g., district documentation is required).

Note: If student placement results in a student being assigned to a school other than the neighborhood school (e.g., capacity or the reasons listed above) the assigned school will work to honor any request for siblings to attend that school.

- If openings at the neighborhood school become available, the student that was displaced will have a choice to return.
- Siblings of the displaced students will have an opportunity to return to the neighborhood school if space is available.

5. **Approved the Implementation Plan for Neighborhood Schools:** It was approved that an Implementation Plan would be used to provide support during this period of transition to neighborhood schools. It was acknowledged that the attendance area problem was not created overnight and implementing a solution over a period of time would be least disruptive.

- Implementation begins for the 2016-2017 school year.
- Students new to the WAWM District or transitioning to a new grade level (Elementary, Intermediate or High School) would attend their neighborhood school.
- Elementary students currently enrolled at an elementary building (excluding 4K students who received a one-year intra-district transfer approval) would have the opportunity to continue in the current building or choose to attend their neighborhood school.
- Intermediate and High School students currently enrolled in an intermediate or high school can continue in the current building until they transition to the next school level after which they would attend their neighborhood school.
- For the next two years, students who have a sibling that is attending a building outside of the attendance area can attend that same school with their sibling.
- Beginning in year 2018-2019, only students transitioning to a secondary grade level (Intermediate or High School) and have a sibling who is attending a building that is outside of the attendance area could choose to attend that same school with their sibling.
- Students that move to a new residence (in the WAWM District) during the school year, could attend the neighborhood school or finish the year in their current school after which the student would attend the neighborhood school. If the student was a junior in High School, that student would be allowed to remain through senior year.

From the start, the Board was mindful that the elements of balanced enrollment should involve minimized transportation costs, student enrollment for each building at its educational capacity, predictable transitions between elementary, intermediate, and high school while accounting for the diversity in the District. It is

understood that change is never easy and everyone involved in this process labored thoughtfully over each decision. Together, we believe, the approval of the elements of balanced enrollment set the course for fair, equitable and fiscally responsible educational programming for the WAWM School District.

As we move forward with implementation, we will be notifying parents with new students and students transitioning to a new building level about school placement. We will be holding Preview Nights at our Intermediate and High Schools. The website will include the policies, procedures and attendance area maps related to neighborhood schools. Planning and preparation for the 2016-2017 school year is already underway as we look forward to welcoming our students at each of our neighborhood schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lexmond  
Superintendent