



Frequently Asked Questions, 2020-2021 Elementary School Zone Proposal

Priority: Create school zone for new Bonaire Primary School, opening August 2020

Q. What schools will be impacted by this zoning?

Bonaire Elementary, Hilltop Elementary and Matt Arthur Elementary will be impacted.

Q. What criteria were used to create the proposed zones?

- 1) move as few families as possible, while still populating the new school;
- 2) current enrollment in nearby schools;
- 3) population growth in the area, to include projected new construction; and
- 4) natural land boundaries and major roads.

Q. Is public input considered?

Yes, public input is an important part of this decision. Parents were invited to a public meeting on January 30, 2020, at Veterans High, to provide an opportunity to address the Board prior to the plans being finalized.

Q. How soon will we know the final zone lines?

The Board plans to vote on the final school zones during the February 11, 2020, Board meeting. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Board of Education office located at 1100 Main Street in Perry.

Q. When will the new zones become effective?

The zones will become effective for the 2020-2021 school year. The first day of school is August 4, 2020.

Q. Under the proposed plan, what school enrollment is projected for each school?

The proposal would result in the following projected enrollments:

- Bonaire Elementary = from current enrollment of 873 to 537;
- Matt Arthur Elementary = from current enrollment of 850 to 749;
- Hilltop Elementary = from current enrollment of 653 to 570; and
- Bonaire Primary = 544.

Q. Will any secondary schools be impacted by this zoning?

No. There will not be any changes made to any middle school or high school zones.

Q. What grades will be served by the Bonaire schools?

Bonaire Primary will serve students in grades Pre-K - 2, and Bonaire Elementary will serve grades 3 - 5.

Frequently Asked Questions, 2020-2021 Elementary School Zone Proposal **Page 2 of 4**

Q. My child receives special education services at his current school. How will his needs be met?

All appropriate special education services and supports will continue to be provided to students. If your child is being rezoned and you have concerns, please contact your student's case manager.

Q. What is the plan for children who would be moved to a new school who are enrolled in gifted classes at their current school?

Students who are gifted-identified, based on state and local testing guidelines, are eligible for placement in Gifted and Talented Education (GTE) classes in all of the district's elementary schools. Any gifted-identified student who moves to a different school would be placed in a GTE class.

Students who are enrolled in GTE classrooms who are not gifted-identified, based on state and local testing guidelines, are not guaranteed placement in a GTE classroom. Non-gifted students are placed in GTE classrooms based on a variety of academic criteria and available enrollment slots per school, per grade level. Any student who moves to a different school may or may not be placed in a GTE class.

Q. What will the classroom sizes be after this proposal is implemented?

Our district follows the state guidelines, as shown at this link:

<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-5-1-.08.pdf>

Q. My child is very active in extracurricular activities at Hilltop. What clubs are offered at Bonaire Elementary?

Bonaire Elementary currently offers the following clubs and organizations:

- Art Squad
- Coloring Club
- Bonaire Beat
- Bonaire Breakfast Club
- Bonaire Bust a Move
- Bonaire Dance Team
- Chess Club
- Chorus
- 4-H
- Fitness Club
- Junior Master Gardening
- Math 24
- Partners Club
- Photography/ Yearbook Club
- Ribbon Dance Club
- Science Olympiad
- Student Council.

Read more on the BES website under the "Campus Life" tab at <https://bes.hcbe.net/>.

Frequently Asked Questions, 2020-2021 Elementary School Zone Proposal **Page 3 of 4**

Q. Will the teachers at the new Bonaire Primary School be experienced or new teachers?
Similar to all of our schools, Bonaire Primary will have a blend of experienced and new teachers. Principal Dr. Elgin Mayfield will seek to hire the very best. With the grade configuration changing at Bonaire Elementary, the Pre-K through 2nd-grade teachers currently on staff at Bonaire Elementary will transfer to Bonaire Primary.

Our district is proud that 100 percent of our teachers have been identified as *Professionally Qualified* by the Georgia Department of Education for 10 consecutive years. In addition, 100 percent of our paraprofessionals – who serve in Pre-K and K classes – are also *Professionally Qualified*. Our district's Teacher Recruitment Fair will be held February 29, 2020, so our principals are already planning for their teaching and support staff for the coming school year.

Q. What is the plan for busing students?
Transportation will be provided for eligible students. Routes are created annually during the summer.

Q. What is the plan for pickup times for families with children at both schools?
The principals of Bonaire Elementary and Bonaire Primary are aware of the drive time between the two schools and will work with families to resolve concerns.

Q. Will an after school program be offered at Bonaire Elementary?
An After School Program (ASP) is offered based on demand and must be self-sustaining financially. Bonaire Elementary School currently offers an ASP.

Q. May a current 4th grader remain at their present school if they are rezoned under this proposal?

Yes, a current 4th grader would have the option to remain, providing the parent completes an Out-of-Zone form and provides transportation. Younger siblings in lower grades would not be allowed to remain at the current zoned school.

Q. Are there other options for remaining in the current zone, in addition to allowing 4th graders to remain?

Our district adheres to state legislation which allow parents/guardians the option to request a school transfer based on space availability. This includes Georgia House Bill 251, Georgia House Bill 224 and Georgia Senate Bill 10. Parents must complete an Out-of-Zone form to apply for a transfer. Out-of-zone requests approved through HB251 and HB224 require parents to provide transportation. Information is posted to the district website (www.hcbe.net), under the Parents tab on the Zoning webpage at <https://www.hcbe.net/zoning>.

Q. Are there any allowances made for military children?

The 2017 Georgia General Assembly approved House Bill 224 (HB224) for military service members who live in base housing. HB224 allows military families the option to request any school within the school district based on space availability if the family resides on base or in off-base military housing. Openings are grade-specific within schools, based on space availability. Military members who are not eligible for HB224 may request a transfer through House Bill 251 or Senate Bill 10. Parents who transfer their children under HB224 or HB251 assume all costs and responsibilities for

Frequently Asked Questions, 2020-2021 Elementary School Zone Proposal
Page 4 of 4

transporting the student to and from school as long as the child remains at that school. More information is posted to the district website (www.hcbe.net), under the Parents tab on the Zoning webpage at <https://www.hcbe.net/zoning>.

Q. What are the plans for any future zoning?

Currently, there are no plans for any other future zoning. The 2017-2022 E-SPLOST approved by voters in 2016 includes building one school, which is the new Bonaire Primary School. Based on the growth in our community, our district will ask for a continuation of the E-SPLOST in 2021 to help fund needs between 2022 and 2027. If the enrollment growth follows current trends, Houston County voters would be asked to approve continuing the one-cent sales tax to fund necessary projects, which would likely include a middle school and elementary school. If approved, zoning plans would be made several months prior to opening the new schools once built.