

Recommendation for CUSD Elementary School Boundary Changes

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Where We Are in the Process

DISTRICT
DEMOGRAPHER
PROVIDED DATA
TO CUSD STAFF &
SCHOOL BOARD

THE BOARD
NARROWED OPTIONS
& DIRECTED STAFF TO
ENGAGE THE
COMMUNITY ABOUT
OPTIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BOARD VOTE



How Did We Get Here?

In 2019-2020, CUSD changed Hatch Elementary School enrollment boundaries so Moonridge students could attend their local neighborhood school. Due to COVID-19 and the need to focus on CUSD response to the pandemic, the Governing Board direction to propose TK-5 boundary changes was put on hold.

We saw further enrollment declines in recent years, similar to most districts in California. Staff worked with CUSD's demographer to analyze and propose boundary changes to help rebalance enrollment in the district. Staff presented alternatives and sought direction from the Board in April. The CUSD Board then directed staff to seek community input on proposed changes in order to help realize the goal of rebalancing and right sizing CUSD TK-5 school enrollments.



Why Do Boundaries Need to be Adjusted?

Hatch

In comparison to other CUSD elementary schools, Hatch is now over-enrolled with the addition of ~50 students once the Moonridge students could return to their local school. Hatch has concerns with parking and increased traffic due to higher enrollment, and thus there would be benefits to Hatch to lower their student enrollments there

El Granada

El Granada now has significantly higher enrollment than its local school counterpart to the north. Adjusting boundaries could help CUSD operate schools with more efficiency and parity of services, and it would also help us realize our goal of balancing the number of students enrolled across the elementary schools as well as decreasing enrollment at Hatch.

Farallone View

Farallone View is currently under-enrolled now as a result of a 2020 decision to return Moonridge students to their local school. The school community there could benefit from adding more students over time and restoring it to have a more diverse student body. Ultimately there would be increased enrollment at Farallone View over time.



What is the Goal? Balancing School Enrollments

Across the county and state, most school districts are losing student enrollment. We need to balance enrollments in CUSD and also preserve the deeply held sense of community found at each of our elementary schools. We also need to be able to staff efficiently at all our schools for district financial sustainability and for optimal operations at each of our schools. Although CUSD deemed it appropriate to change elementary school boundaries in 2020 so Moonridge students could enroll at their neighborhood elementary school at Hatch, the decision's impact subsequently threw elementary school enrollments out of balance and negatively impacted Farallone View as a result. The goal is to balance elementary school enrollments so all the affected schools are able to run efficiently with parity of programs while also providing campuses with diverse students that represent the Coastside as a whole. There are benefits from finishing the task of revising elementary school boundaries.



What Does Balanced Enrollment Look Like?

Hatch Goal: 500

Current: 543

El Granada Goal: 270

Current: 322

Farallone View Goal: 240

Current: 164



What are Benefits of Balancing School Enrollments?

Using our current elementary school enrollment boundaries, CUSD is forecast to experience increasingly unbalanced numbers of students enrolled in each of the affected schools (around 170 at Farallone View, 270 at El Granada, and 580 at Hatch Elementary School). The imbalance is problematic for our schools and for our district as a whole because this impacts Hatch and Farallone View negatively with concerns of over-enrollment and under-enrollment respectively. Balancing CUSD enrollment numbers by completing the unfinished boundary revisions can help us run schools more efficiently, increase parity of services, and right-size campus enrollments to schools'



Community Engagement Sessions Held

Pillar Ridge

Thursday, May 11th, 4:00-6:00 PM

Moonridge

Friday, May 12th, 6:30-8:00 PM

Main Street

Friday, May 12th, 5:00-6:30 PM

DELAC

Wednesday, May 17th, 6:00-7:00 PM

Hatch Elementary

Tuesday, May 23rd, 5:00-6:00 PM

El Granada Elementary

Tuesday, May 23rd, 6:30-7:30 PM

Farallone View Elementary

Thursday, May 25th, 5:00-6:00 PM

Pillar Ridge

Thursday, June 8th, 3:45-5:30 PM



What are the Recommended Changes?

- In 2024, all incoming TK/K students or other newly enrolled students would be assigned to schools based on newly proposed boundaries.
- New enrolling students at Pillar Ridge would attend Farallone View.

 New enrolling students living on Highway 92 and new enrolling students living at Highland Park would be enrolled at El Granada.

Moonridge and Main Street students would continue on at Hatch.



What is the Rationale for This Change Now?

- This plan would restore Farallone View Elementary School, both by providing the school with a diverse student body and by helping the school remain viable in its enrollment.
- This plan would also help address over-enrollment issues existing at Hatch Elementary School. It would help balance the enrollment across all of the three different schools.
- This plan is the only viable option to help us reach the goal of increasing the enrollment at Farallone View Elementary while decreasing the enrollment at Hatch Elementary.



Why Are Boundary Changes Needed?

- Right-sizing of school enrollments through adopting these recommended boundary changes can help the District and its schools operate more effectively, efficiently, and fairly.
- Cabrillo Unified School District is committed to doing what it can to ensure that all elementary school students are provided with the highest quality education possible, regardless of which school they attend. Balancing CUSD school enrollments according to their sizes and capacities could help CUSD achieve that goal now going forward.



Intradistrict Transfers & Immersion

Families of new/incoming CUSD students would also continue to be able to request an Intradistrict Transfer to potentially enroll in alternative elementary schools of their choosing (e.g., Pillar Ridge families could request El Granada Elementary School and Highland Park families could request Hatch Elementary School). All incoming students would also continue to be eligible for the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program at Hatch Elementary School through their annual lottery process and if space exists.

Currently Enrolled Students

Students who are currently enrolled in CUSD (including students who are now enrolled to start school this coming year in August 2023) will not be required to change their schools. The elementary school boundary changes that are now proposed will only apply to future CUSD enrollments beginning in the 2024-25 school year and ongoing after that school year.



What is Currently Proposed for El Granada and Farallone View?

The boundary change proposed now for El Granada and Farallone View basically returns the families from the Pillar Ridge neighborhood back to Farallone View where they had once been assigned historically before Moonridge students were later assigned to Farallone View years ago.





And What is Currently Proposed for Hatch and El Granada?

The boundary change proposed now for El Granada and Hatch assigns both the Highland Park neighborhood and the Hilltop Mobile Park/Highway 92 housing to El Granada. Main Street and Moonridge students will be able to remain at Hatch Elementary.





Recommendation to Governing Board

Staff now recommend adopting the elementary school boundary revisions that were proposed by CUSD's demographer and staff back in April and selected as the most viable options by the Governing Board at that time. Should these new elementary school boundary revisions now be adopted by CUSD's Governing Board, the enrollment boundaries would take effect beginning in August of 2024, and all newly enrolled students would be assigned based on these finalized elementary school boundary changes.



Questions?

Thank you!