

Gilbert Public Schools

Proposed Boundary Changes 2019-2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 12/04/2018



Q: Who initially proposed these changes?

- A district Enrollment Management Planning Committee was established in 2016. The Committee was tasked with reviewing and addressing factors that influence GPS enrollment. Boundary changes were identified as a factor that could positively influence enrollment. A consultant was employed to review different options. The results of this process are the proposed boundary changes for 2019-2020.

Q: If these boundaries do change, when would they become effective?

- If approved these boundary changes will become effective school year 2019-2020. New elementary age families moving into the brand new Morrison Ranch neighborhoods of Lakeview Trails Southwest and Southeast in the Spring of 2019 will begin and be provided transportation to Finley Farms Elementary.

Q: What is the goal of these changes?

- To ensure the district can continue to give all of our students and families a superior education while maximizing the use of our school buildings.

Q: When was the last time GPS had a boundary change like this?

- The last time boundaries were changed within the district was 2009, with the building and opening of Campo Verde High School. Boundary changes like the ones proposed are very common within a district of our size and age.

Q: Why do you allow open enrollment?

- Arizona state law allows students to apply for admission to any public school, based on available classroom space (A.R.S. § 15-816.01). The law requires that school districts develop policies regarding open enrollment that may include transportation and that the policies shall be posted on the district's website and available to the public upon request. Transportation is available for some special education students based on their needs and individual education plan (IEP).

Q: Why can't you just cap numbers at the schools that are full?

- Our goal is to welcome as many students as possible to a Gilbert Public Schools education. If there is capacity at a school we will accept open enrollment.

Q: Are boundary exceptions going to be approved, for example, if the student is currently going to a Junior High for 7th grade and would like to remain for 8th?

- Yes. We will ensure that any students who wish to remain at the school they are currently attending will be able to continue to attend that school through our existing open enrollment policy and processes.

Q: What if older siblings attend a certain High School, will boundary exceptions be allowed for current and younger siblings to go to that High School too?

- Yes. We will ensure that any students who wish to attend the school that their siblings are currently attending will be able to attend that school through our existing open enrollment policy and processes.

Q: What about transportation for students who wish to remain at the school they are already attending and will become open enrollment students?

- Families currently living in the school boundaries of a potential boundary change can choose to continue to attend the school they are presently zoned for rather than move to the new school. Transportation for the “old” boundaries will be provided to the school for the 2019-2020 school year. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, families wishing to remain at the school will have to provide their own transportation. Transportation for the new boundaries would immediately begin for the 2019-2020 school year.

Q: Why are some Mesa residents zoned for Gilbert schools? If the boundaries were adjusted to move residents of Mesa along the US 60-Baseline to their own city's schools, Gilbert schools could make room for their own town's students.

- The boundaries for Gilbert Public Schools were established over 100 years ago. School district boundaries do not necessarily coincide with city/town boundaries in Arizona.