

## **THE LCISD ZONING PROCESS**

**FACT:** Lamar CISD is among the fastest growing school districts in the state. A large number of residential developments are under construction or in the planning stages throughout the LCISD community. The district must continue providing all students with a quality education.

**BACKGROUND:** In a growing school system, it is inevitable that the district's attendance zones will be changed periodically. As new schools open and population shifts occur, attendance zones will be adjusted. Each campus in the district is unique and offers many enrichment opportunities for students. Our goal is to ensure that all campuses, regardless of location, provide quality programs.

**REQUESTING AN INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFER:** Assignments of any neighborhoods or areas of the district to a particular campus are subject to re-evaluation each year. Although students are expected to attend the school located in the attendance zone in which they reside, certain conditions may exist as outlined in district policies and procedures in which parents/guardians may request their child's transfer to another LCISD campus. In such instances, the parents/guardians may complete an intra-district transfer application available from any campus.

The application must be submitted to the principal at the requested campus. Due to overcrowded conditions at some campuses, the district may declare a campus closed to new transfers.

**ZONING OBJECTIVES/CRITERIA:** The district's Framework for Facilities Planning established a need for objectives and criteria to be used to guide zoning decisions. The following 12 objectives should be used when developing new attendance zones. All of the 12 objectives should be given equal weight when making boundary decisions.

1. To draw attendance zones in a way that supports an efficient/effective use of school facilities.
2. To reduce overcrowding of campuses.
3. To plan for future growth.
4. To keep neighborhoods and feeder schools tracking together, as much as possible.
5. To minimize rezoning neighborhoods which have been affected in previous rezonings.
6. To draw secondary zones which reflect the diversity of the district, as much as possible.
7. To consider elementary students' proximity to a campus, being mindful of traffic patterns that allow for the safest routes available.
8. To involve the community in defining the objectives/criteria for rezoning.
9. To develop a fair and objective rezoning process.
10. To always keep in mind doing what is in the best interest of students.
11. To communicate zoning information effectively to all students and families that may be impacted.
12. To consider fiscal impact of changes.

**ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE MAKE-UP:** Membership of the ABC will consist of two representatives from each elementary and middle school campus and three representatives from each junior high and high school campus. The campus administrator will select campus representatives with the entire committee approved by the Board. Appropriate central administrators will serve as resources as needed. District information and the Board’s charge for rezoning considerations will be presented to the entire committee. Only representatives from campuses affected by rezoning and their feeder schools will be involved in making the rezoning recommendations to be presented to the Board. Current Board members cannot serve on the Attendance Boundary Committee.

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<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Step 6</b>	<b>Step 7</b>
Conduct Board/Cabinet workshop(s) to review and discuss ABC charge and approve committee membership.	Convene the Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) to review data & create zoning recommendations based on options presented by the administration as charged by the Board.	Conduct community forum(s) for parents in the areas subject to change to review plans and provide feedback.	Conduct additional ABC meetings as needed to review and discuss ABC proposed plan(s), and any changes presented based on parent input.	Conduct additional community forum(s) if needed to present final recommendation and allow for public comments.	Submit final recommendation to the Board Zoning Committee for input.	Submit final recommendation for Board approval.

**Step 1:** The administrative team will present all options to be considered for rezoning for review, discussion and input at a Board workshop (open to the public). Any modifications suggested at the workshop will be made before presenting the options to the ABC. Information for the Board may also be presented in written format to be discussed at a regular meeting of the Board. The Board will charge the administration with rezoning priorities to be considered by the ABC and approve the ABC membership roster for that year.

**Step 2:** Involve parents and community members in the process through the district Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC). The ABC will review the supporting data and options presented by the administration and work to propose possible zoning recommendations for Board consideration and approval.

**Step 3:** The plan(s) will be shown at a Community Forum(s) for parent input.

**Step 4:** Based on parent input from the Community Forum(s), the ABC will make any needed modifications to its recommendations. Modified ABC recommendations can be presented orally or in a written format to the Board.

**Step 5:** Additional Community Forum if needed to allow for parent comments on any ABC changes to the original recommendation.

**Step 6:** ABC will submit final recommendation to the Board Zoning Committee for input.

**Step 7:** Zoning plan(s) submitted for Board approval.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you would like additional information about zoning in Lamar CISD, please contact Community Relations at 832-223-0330.