



# Community Unit School District 303

---

## Frequently Asked Questions

If I have a specific question about my circumstances, or that of my child, who can I email?

You may send an email to [justask@d303.org](mailto:justask@d303.org) and your question will be routed to the appropriate administrator for an answer.

When will the School Board vote on the proposed changes?

The recommendations will be brought to the School Board for consideration at the regular meeting on February 12, 2018. (UPDATE) The School Board will now vote on March 12, 2018 at its regular meeting at St. Charles East High School at 7:00 p.m.

When will Administration present its findings on the feasibility of closing Lincoln?

The School Board will hear a presentation by the District Administration on the feasibility of closing Lincoln Elementary School in addition to repurposing Fox Ridge and updating elementary school boundaries on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wredling Middle School cafeteria.

If approved, when will these changes go into effect?

Changes will go into effect for the 2018-2019 school year.

If my student attends a school on an Intra-District transfer, does he have to go back to the school in our attendance area for the 2018-2019 school year?

Yes. The new boundaries assume that all elementary students attend the school to which they are zoned next year, with exceptions only for students in special programs at specific schools.

Will I be able to apply for an Intra-District transfer for the 2018-2019 school year?

Parents of elementary students attending school on an intra-district transfer will need to reapply in the summer. Currently, it is our intention to continue to offer choice at the elementary school level. We believe that we are partners with parents in the education of their children, and we feel that it is important for us to be as flexible as possible relative to choice within the constraints of our financial resources.

Will all Early Childhood students attend school at Fox Ridge?

No. The Early Childhood program at Ferson Creek will continue; students currently attending Norton Creek and Davis will transition to Fox Ridge. Additionally, the Bilingual Early Childhood program at Davis Primary may remain at Davis.

How many students will be changing schools?

Approximately 700 students from around the District will be changing schools. Roughly 300 of those are from Fox Ridge.

How many schools will students from Fox Ridge be attending?

Students who currently attend Fox Ridge will be moved to Munhall, Norton Creek, Anderson, or Lincoln according to their neighborhoods.

Will special programs continue to operate where they are?

Special programs are continually evaluated to ensure placement in a building that has the capacity to provide the best support for the students in the program. These programs will continue to be evaluated during the spring and summer to ensure the best placements throughout the District. We have room district wide to continue offering all of the elementary special programs we currently offer.

Will boundary changes affect middle school and high school students?

Neither middle school nor high school boundaries are changing. This proposal is for elementary schools only.

Is there a process in place for families and students to visit their new Elementary schools?

Yes. Elementary school principals are currently working on plans to welcome their new families at open houses. Impacted families will receive a letter after the School Board takes action informing them of the change, and providing them with information about open houses or other events at their new school.

Where do parents of incoming kindergarten students register?

Because the School Board will not act on a proposal until after Kindergarten registration, we ask families to register at their current school. Families will be notified by mail if their attendance area changes.

Will students who live near Wredling and who will attend Lincoln under the new plan be assigned to Thompson Middle School?

Many students who attend Lincoln live in areas that are assigned to Thompson. The District is not changing middle school boundaries and students will follow the current feeder pattern. If a student attends Lincoln, but lives in an area currently assigned to Wredling, that will not change. Families may choose to apply for an Intra-District transfer if they want to send their student to Thompson.

If our home is being re-boundaried and we already have a child in elementary school, what happens? Do we then have kids that are in 2 different schools? Can we choose to elect them to both be at the same school and if so will bus transportation be provided for both of them?

Your child who is already in elementary school will be assigned to the new boundary school. If you request a transfer for your students to attend a school that is not your attendance school, and it is approved, you will need to provide transportation.

Why are Fox Ridge students being split into 3 different schools?

Fox Ridge students will attend one of four schools - Norton Creek, Munhall, Lincoln or Anderson, and are being assigned by neighborhoods to schools that have additional space and are in close proximity to those neighborhoods.

Why are the proposed boundaries for Lincoln and Munhall so inconsistent with the proposed boundaries for the other elementary schools?

It is our intention to not move students just for the sake of moving them. The students in the northernmost boundary of Munhall are able to remain at that school because there is room and we did not want to move them if we could avoid it.

Was Lincoln considered for the Early Childhood Center instead of Fox Ridge?

No. Fox Ridge has classrooms that are specifically designed for early childhood students and Lincoln does not.

If the ideal utilization is 80%-90%, why are Richmond and Lincoln left at nearly 100%? If other schools are in the 70's, it seems to still be a distribution concern.

Lincoln has capacity for only two sections per grade level. In order to maintain two sections and not drop to one section, Lincoln must operate at or near 100% capacity. Richmond operates that way to accommodate the students coming in from Davis because there are more classrooms at Davis than Richmond.

How can Lincoln accommodate my kids from Fox Ridge when they're over capacity now and looks to be over with the new proposal?

Currently there is a pocket of students on the west side of town who are assigned to Lincoln. Those students will be assigned to Bell-Graham next year, which opens space for the Fox Ridge students being assigned to attend Lincoln.

Will Lincoln have all day kindergarten?

The decision about what schools have half day kindergarten is made after kindergarten registration. Lincoln has typically run a half day kindergarten class because there is only one kindergarten classroom but that decision will be made in the spring.

If Cambridge East kids will be walking to Munhall, will there be a crossing guard on South Tyler?

We are looking at all areas affected by this change to ensure that our students can get to and from school safely. When the School Board acts upon this proposal, we will be able to make final decisions about transportation and crossing guards.

What is the district policy on busing? How far away do we have to live from the school in order to be bused?

Current Board Policy states, "The District shall provide free transportation for any student in the District who resides: (1) at a distance of one and one-half miles or more from his or her assigned school, unless the School Board has certified to the Illinois State Board of Education that adequate public transportation is available or (2) within one and one-half miles from his or her assigned school where walking to school or to a pick-up point or bus stop would constitute a serious hazard due to vehicular traffic or rail crossing, and adequate public transportation is not available."

As a former school counselor, I am appalled that support staff are being cut. If "What's best for students" is really what's important to this school board and community, then the social/emotional health of our students has to be placed at a higher priority.

Most of the support staff positions being eliminated are office personnel. However, there is a .5 psychologist position and a 1.0 social worker position that are assigned to the school and will be eliminated.

Why are current Wild Rose students being moved to another school when Wild Rose will not be at the optimal 80-90% capacity?

Some student who attend Wild Rose live in the northern part of the District that is closer to Anderson. With the construction of new bridges over the Fox River, we have the opportunity to place students in a school that is geographically closer to their homes. In addition, we have to alleviate overcrowding at Richmond and are moving students from there to Wild Rose.

1. If Fox Ridge school were to be sold, what could that land be used for? Residential or Commercial? That could affect property owners value in that area if undesirable commercial zoning takes place.
2. There is mention of the importance of keeping the northern section of Munhall boundary intact but no explanation.

We are repurposing Fox Ridge as an early childhood center, with no immediate plans to sell it. If the school board decides to have a conversation about selling the building in the future, its use would depend on the buyer and zoning from the city.

The students in the northern section of the Munhall boundary are already bussed to Munhall and we wanted to keep them in their school.

My child loves the school where she currently attends, is it possible for her to continue at that school next year?

For the 2018-2019 school year, students are being assigned to their new school for planning purposes. However, parents have the opportunity to apply for a transfer for their students. We believe that we are partners with parents in the education of their children, and we feel that it is important for us to be as flexible as possible relative to choice within the constraints of our financial resources.

Are the projected Richmond numbers % of utilization based on the revised boundaries only? Does that include "grandfathering" in current students who would live outside the new boundaries?

The Administrative recommendation to the School Board is to allow current Richmond 3rd and 4th grade students **only** to complete their elementary education at Richmond Intermediate. Those numbers are not reflected in the boundary utilization numbers since the utilization percentage is based on students who are assigned to Richmond attendance area for the 2018-2019 school year.

Is \$280,000 the total estimated savings for this plan?

That figure represents the estimated annual savings to District 303.

How does this change in elementary schools change their middle and high school?

Students attend middle schools based on the boundary maps that were created last year. There are no changes to high school boundaries.

Do you have to apply annually for an Intra-District transfer?

Administration is recommending to the school board that policy be changed relative to Intra-District transfers at the elementary school level. This means that parents would have to apply for a transfer on an annual basis. The change allows for schools to approve transfers only if there is room at their school for the year in which the transfer was approved.

Will the community have the opportunity to express their concerns/desires to the School Board at a Board meeting?

There is an allotted time at school board meetings for public comment, typically 30 minutes.

There are community meetings on January 22 and 29 where community members will hear the presentation given to the Learning and Teaching Committee on January 18. While there may be board members present, it is not a school board meeting and no action is being taken. At those meetings, we will have index cards for people to use to ask a question as well as tables set up after the meeting where

people can ask questions about transfers, transportation, early childhood, finances and special programming.

A special board meeting has been scheduled on January 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Thompson Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center LRC. The only agenda item is the plan so board members can discuss it publicly.

The School Board will take action at its regular meeting on February 12. As with all school board meetings, there will be 30 minutes allotted for public comment.

If these boundary changes move forward - what additional maintenance is proposed and set to be done to Lincoln specifically? Being that it is known to need a great deal of maintenance and expense every year? Please address this at the upcoming meeting.

The school board has asked administration to share the capital improvement plan with them at its next meeting. The District has plans for improvements and upgrades for the next 5, 10 and 20 years.

Will the administration housed at Haines mobiles be moved?

There currently are no administrative offices located in Haines mobile units. They are all being used as classrooms.

Anderson does not offer full day kindergarten. Most Wild Rose students choose full day. So would our full day kindergartners go to a different school?

Anderson does offer full day kindergarten and will continue to offer it.

How will services like OT, speech and social work be impacted by the boundary changes?

Those services will continue to be offered at all our elementary schools.

Can you please re-post or advise where parents can confirm the middle school and high school assignments based on the new elementary school boundaries? Many of us don't remember what they were for schools that would not apply to our families when they were announced.

The middle and high school boundaries have not changed. You may see that map on the District website at <http://district.d303.org/attendance-boundaries>

Why are parents granted another school out of their boundary they requested when the school has higher than average capacity? Will this change with the new boundaries?

Parents will be asked to apply for a transfer on an annual basis, which will provide schools with the opportunity to grant those requests only if space is available in that school for that year.

Please explain the criteria for the current and new utilization charts in relation to the number of classrooms. What does the number of classrooms represent; currently being used or total number of classrooms? How was the utilization percentage calculated?

The utilization chart shows the number of academic rooms in a school. Academic classrooms are rooms used for kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. This does not include classrooms for specials such as art and music. To calculate the academic capacity of a school, we used an average class size of 24, which is the staffing number we use at the elementary level, and multiplied that by the number of academic classrooms.

Dr. Pearson clarified that Cap and Send is a practice and an administrative procedure and that the District will be looking for a change in practice. Does a change in practice mean lowering the Cap of 29 to a different number? If so, what is that number?

Administration is recommending to the School Board that the cap and send number be reduced to 27.

How will the remaining classrooms at Fox Ridge be used?

Early Childhood Diagnostic Team that screens incoming students  
Early Childhood staff  
District Related Services including:  
- Walk in speech services  
- Assisted technology facilitators  
- Special Education records  
- Therapy Coordinators such as Speech and OT/PT

Where will the Fox Ridge teachers be assigned? Will any lose their jobs?

There is a District process for moving teachers between schools that will be followed. At this time, there are no plans for a reduction in force (RIF) of teachers.

When was a 3rd party building inspection done on Lincoln elementary? Where can a copy of inspection be found to review for families concerned with the quality of the building and materials?

Health Life Safety inspections are done at our buildings on an annual basis by the Regional Office of Education as well as the Fire Department. Every 10 years, the architect of record

also conducts inspections. You may contact our buildings and grounds department for a copy of the inspections.

Can you publish the full report that was received from the demographer on future enrollment trends?

The report can be accessed on the District website on the Elementary Boundaries and Utilization page under the Community Growth Presentations. It is in the August 10 recommendations to the Board of Education.

What guarantees are there that a fully utilized building will have class sizes not exceeding 24 students per your slide?

The presentation made to the school board uses 24 students as an average class size. Twenty-four is the number the District uses for staffing purposes at the elementary school level. We cannot guarantee that class sizes will not exceed 24.

If Lincoln is currently operating above capacity, what is the rationale for adding students to that building?

As part of the boundary changes, Lincoln will be losing students who live on the west side of town across Randall Rd. That opens us space to accommodate students from Fox Ridge.

Are we going to find ourselves in need of building a new school because we closed Fox Ridge?

We are repurposing Fox Ridge to an Early Childhood Center, which gives the District the flexibility to use the building as an elementary school, if needed in the future.

Given the current situation, would the Board consider re-evaluating closing Lincoln and Wasco?

The recommendation currently being made to the School Board is for them to consider closing Fox Ridge and changing the elementary school boundaries. No other proposals are being brought forward.

You stated the maintenance on Fox Ridge is one reason for closing it. If you plan to use the building for Early Education, will you not still need to maintain and pay for custodial staff?

In the presentation, the criteria for closing a school included: looking at where students live now and in the future, ratio of walkers to bus riders, flexibility for future use and potential marketability of the site. Maintenance of the building was not a factor given that we will be using it to house the District's Early Childhood program. We will still have custodial staff at Fox Ridge.

What school has 3-4 sections of the same grade?

Currently, all elementary schools with the exception of Lincoln and Norton Creek have some grades with 3 or 4 sections per grade level.

Who is on the Growth Committee?

The members of the Growth Committee were: Mr. Steve Catlin, Mr. James Chimienti, Ms. Val Grohe, Mr. Rich Kitick, Father David Peck, Ms. Gina Rizza, Ms. Anne Ward and Mr. Chris Woelfer. The District administrator on the committee was Dr. Seth Chapman, Assistant Supt. for Business Services.

Who was the demographer used for the stats?

Charles Kofron, Ph.D. LLC is a demographic and statistical data processing consultancy specializing in primary and secondary statistical data analysis, school district enrollment projections, and organizational environmental scans using geographic information system technology.

There are only a few classrooms that are specifically built for Early Childhood in Fox Ridge. The double sided glass to observe is covered with artwork and not even used. So explain why Lincoln can not be used as EC? The playground the field the space is all at FOX RIDGE.

As you say, there are rooms specifically designed for early childhood at Fox Ridge. Many early childhood students use walkers and are in need of OT and PT services. They are not able to navigate the stairs at Lincoln.

Do the taxpayers/parents have a say in this decision to close our school or are these meetings designed to just tell the community of what was decided without them?

Members of the School Board are elected by the community to represent them. Comments and questions the District has received are being shared with the School Board. The final decision is made at the Board table on February 12. (UPDATE) The School Board will be voting on March 12, 2018.

I am trying to determine why there is a difference in the enrollment numbers between the those used in presentation and the Illinois District Report Cards

The information used in the presentation assumes all students are in their boundaried school, not where they are currently enrolled.

I understand that birth rate data for the area has been used to predict enrollment through 2021, however I am wondering if home turnover data (homes being sold by older individuals/empty nesters to young families) in the area has also been reviewed?

The data we use does take neighborhood turnover into account. Over the past decade, St. Charles District 303 has moved from a “growing” community to a “mature” community. When communities mature, the average number of school-aged children per household declines to around 0.4 children per household. At the peak of enrollment in our district, we had approximately 0.6 school-aged children per household in the district.

Does the District have a new focus on Early Childhood Education?

By law, school districts must provide services to 3-year olds who qualify for Early Childhood. District 303 currently has programs scattered around the District and this provides us with the opportunity to consolidate instructional programming, as well as services. Because there are classrooms specifically designed for Early Childhood at Ferson Creek, we will have a west side and an east side facility that can provide a continuity of services and have dedicated space for 3-4 year olds.

How was it determined that utilization rate of 80-90% is optimal?

If a school is below 80% utilization, there are empty classrooms and we want students in our classrooms. If you get above 90%, there is no extra room for students who may move in or for specials. (The exception to this is Lincoln, which because it has only two sections per grade level, must operate at or near capacity).

We are hoping for estimated stats for kids attending Bell Graham next year based on new boundaries

As noted on the enrollment chart presented at the meetings, Bell-Graham’s estimated enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is 462 students. This number estimates that all students assigned to Bell-Graham will attend for that year.

Is this the final boundary plan with no option of revision and must pass as stands or can the board make revisions prior to the policy being written?

The proposal being brought to the School Board for a vote on February 12 is the only proposal. At that time, the School Board will vote to either approve the proposal or not. (UPDATE) The School Board will now vote on proposed changes during its regular meeting on March 12, 2018. See page one of this document for details.

What will the security look like at Fox Ridge if it is used as an Early Childhood Center?

The security procedures are the same at all District 303 schools with locked doors, a buzzer on the front door, and a staff member greeting guests. Early Childhood has its own staff members who will move to Fox Ridge from the mobile at Davis.

Will there still be custodial staff at Fox Ridge?

Yes. There is no change to custodial and maintenance staffing.

Will the empty part of the building be closed off? The current EC classes are in the back of the school, with potentially a lot of empty/dark hallways in between.

EC is in the front of the building, not the back of the building and will use about half of the classrooms. Other rooms will be used for walk-in speech/language services, related services staff, and professional development.

Will the EC be able to use the LRC, and will books remain there for them?

Yes, Early Childhood students will use the LRC with books that are age appropriate. Many in the collection currently housed at Fox Ridge are not for 3-5 year-old students.

The proposal has been presented so why is the public not being given opportunity to speak at meetings?  
The board needs to hear from the community. The community does not need to repeatedly hear the presentation. Questions on cards is not a sufficient means to communicate on such an important matter in such a limited amount of time.

Holding multiple community meetings on 1/22 and 1/29 where the information is being presented provides options for all community members who have an interest to hear the presentation. Community members can give public comment at the special School Board meeting on January 30 being held at the Thompson 6<sup>th</sup> grade center at 6:30 p.m., and at the regular School Board meeting on February 12 at 7:00 p.m. also at Thompson 6<sup>th</sup> grade center. Each speaker is given 3 minutes to address the School Board.

Where will funds come from to convert Fox Ridge into an early childhood center? Playgrounds will need to be converted for early childhood students. Where are those funds coming from?

There are classrooms at Fox Ridge that are currently being used as Early Childhood classrooms so there is no cost. In addition, there is playground equipment specifically designed for Early Childhood at Fox Ridge.

Is Mid Valley going to take over Fox Ridge?

No, Mid Valley is not taking over Fox Ridge.

Can you please share the exact numbers used to determine the enrollment percentages you've provided in the charts? They do not seem to match up with the enrollment numbers we have for our school. We need more transparency please.

The numbers used on the utilization charts assume that students are attending the school to which they are assigned based on boundaries. The numbers do not include students who are there on waivers for any reason.

Can you offer some sort of guarantee that you would not sell Fox Ridge for a certain amount of years out? Our neighborhood is feeling very threatened by that possibility

The District is re-purposing Fox Ridge as an Early Childhood Center with no plans to sell it.

At 40% capacity and with equal, if not better facilities for early childhood use, why isn't Norton Creek in consideration for closure?

Norton Creek is one of our newer schools that has an academic capacity of 600 students. If the proposed boundary changes go into effect, the capacity at Norton Creek will be 78% for the 2018-2019 school year.

Where would there be a half day kinder program that offers ELL since you are closing Fox Ridge?

ELL supports are put in place at the schools where there is a need, and that may change based on where students live. The Bilingual kindergarten classroom is at Davis Primary.

This is not a question but a message of support. I live in the Majestic Oaks neighborhood and welcome our children attending Norton Creek instead of Fox Ridge. Norton Creek is much closer (even walkable) to our neighborhood which is preferred to traveling on busy Kirk Road to get to Fox Ridge. It would also mean that our children would attend the same school as the kids in the neighboring subdivisions (Kingswood and Cornerstone Lakes).

The administration has disregarded the language in the teacher's contract regarding class size. The teacher contract states that class size will increase "temporarily", meaning for 1 school year. Why are grades being capped for more than 1 year; in most cases K-5<sup>th</sup>?

"Class size" refers to the number of students in an individual teacher's class, not the number of students in a grade level at a school. Grades are capped to allow the class size to remain within the recommended guidelines when possible. The teacher contract does not control the number of teachers the district has on staff and does not control any policy or procedure related to which schools students attend.

If we choose the waiver option and are approved, does that increase the chance that a 2nd child would also be approved when they reach school age?

Waivers are approved based on space available. That being said, we try to accommodate siblings as best we can.

Is the goal of the district to provide the BEST educational experience possible for our youth or to Maximize Profits?

Provide the best educational experience possible.

Exactly what financial expenses have been taken into account for calculating a cost of \$660,000 for 10 new teachers? Is it safe to assume that to keep within the projected \$660,000 (10 teacher expense) that those incoming 10 teachers would all be new to the district starting at, or close to, Step 1 Year 1 salaries, have attained only the basic required BA degree, hold no other tenure or certifications, and are not participating in any self-growth, continuing education, or student body activities to stay within that \$660,000 projection?

First, the \$66,000 per position is an estimate, not a hard calculation. Thus, the \$660,000 for 10 teachers is also an estimate. There is no "cap" of \$660,000 for new teachers in the proposal, rather, it is an estimate of the cost of hiring ten teachers. Similarly, the same average cost of a new hire is used in the savings calculation for school-dependent teaching positions (i.e. LRC Director, Instructional Support Coach). We always hire the candidate we consider to be the best for any given vacancy.

Second, the \$66,000 is the actual approximate cost of a new hire from the current (2017-2018) school year. The average new hire salary for the current school year was about \$54,000. Add in health/dental/vision benefits at an average of about \$11,200 per employee, retirement, etc, and we get to approximately \$66,000.

When a question is submitted through this platform, who is responding to the questions? The C.U.S.D. 303 School Board Members, the Growth Committee members, or another (if another please specify position and names of individual(s))? As a follow up, are the C.U.S.D. 303 Board members receiving copies of all questions submitted to this platform or do they only receive messages submitted directly to boardofeducation@d303.org ?

Members of the District 303 Senior Leadership Team are answering questions based on their areas of responsibility. In addition, questions are being sorted by content and being given to members of the School Board.

Is the district currently in a deficit? Why is there a need to reduce costs?

We are not in an operating deficit, but we have a deficit in our total budget due to construction. Next year will be the same.

The reduction of elementary schools is not being driven primarily by a need to reduce cost. It is first driven by a desire to improve the instructional environment for our elementary schools. This is the discussion we have about collaboration opportunities in having 4 section buildings versus 2. Also, we are suggesting using some cost savings to lower class sizes by adding 10 teachers...this too is driven by an instructional purpose rather than financial.

The cost savings are certainly advantageous and allow us to fund other initiatives in the district, but are not the reason for the change.

The administration totes class size averages and presents numbers such as 22 and 24 students in an elementary classroom. The administration has not been forthcoming about actual class size numbers and the disparities across the district. Is it time to realign the class size of 22 and 24 numbers in the budget with realistic numbers like 26 and 29? If the budget is based in class averages, are overcrowded classrooms at a disadvantage for the allocation of resources?

The average class size is between 22 and 24 at the elementary level. Some classes are somewhat higher (up to 29) and some are lower. This is not the first year that class size concerns from the public have been brought to the Board.

The administration has been aware of and continued the PRACTICE of overcrowding classroom for years. When did the board become aware of the disparity in class sizes at the elementary level? Was the board informed by the district? Or did the public disclose that information?

Each year, the administration shares class size information with the School Board. The cap of 29 students, while set administratively, has been known to the School Board for many years. No class sizes exceed those allowable.

Will the board be looking at projected class sizes across grade levels and numbers of sections in addition to the building capacity and room utilization information presented? Will that information be shared with the public?

The Administration's proposal takes into account projected enrollments and class sizes for next year.

What does the budget look like if this proposal is passed; with hiring 10 teachers and without hiring 10 teachers?

The budget for next year has not been written. Repurposing Fox Ridge without adding teachers saves roughly \$700,000. Repurposing Fox Ridge while adding teachers saves roughly \$280,000. In other words, adding 10 teachers costs about \$420,000 (see slides 48-50 in the presentation).

Can you confirm for KDG registration at the end of February parents should register kids at the elementary school their child will attend based on whatever decision the board makes? The D303 newsletter today said register them where children in our area normally attend. With all this up in the air, that might be a different location in August than where they are at today.

Kindergarten registration is scheduled for February 28, which is after the proposed boundary changes and Fox Ridge closing will be voted upon. The flyer that went out last week included Fox Ridge because the School Board has not acted upon the proposal. If it is approved, you will register your child at the school you have been assigned for the 2018-2019 school year.

Our neighborhood has experienced significant change of young families, with very young children, moving in. Was this variable taken into consideration when projecting the future enrollment?

The data we use does take neighborhood turnover into account. Over the past decade, St. Charles District 303 has moved from a “growing” community to a “mature” community. When communities mature, the average number of school-aged children per household declines to around 0.4 children per household. At the peak of enrollment in our district, we had approximately 0.6 school-aged children per household in the district.

The district has provided the total number of students by grade by school. Why has the District not provided the number of classes each school will have by grade? For example, if you have 93 students in one grade at one school, how many academic classrooms will be utilized?

Once registration is complete and families who choose to have applied for transfers, the District will be able to compile those numbers.

Will there be any modifications to the way school choice is implemented? Perhaps placing a per-class cap in each section to ensure there is room for move-ins and not maxing out to the proposed cap on day 1 as a result.

It is not our intention to fill a class to 27 with transfer students, thus leaving room for students who may move into the attendance area.

Are you closing Fox Ridge and Lincoln? where will all those kids go?

There is a current proposal to re-purpose Fox Ridge and turn it into an early childhood center. That proposal also calls for new boundaries at the elementary school level. At the special School Board meeting on January 30, the School Board asked administration to look at the feasibility of also closing Lincoln Elementary School. That plan will be presented at a special School Board meeting on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wredling Middle School cafeteria.

I am curious as to if the high school boundaries are being looked into

The proposal is only to change elementary school boundaries.

Why is South Elgin & West Chicago part of CUSD 303 in St Charles if overcrowding is a concern?  
Should St Charles school district then only service residents of St Charles

District 303 serves families in several communities, including the City of St. Charles and portions of West Chicago, South Elgin, Wayne, Campton Hills, Wasco, Elburn and unincorporated Kane County. Many school districts around Illinois serve more than one community.

Is the KDG registration date changing? We live in one of the areas impacted by the proposed changes and we need to know which school we need to register our child at, the current one serving our neighborhood or the proposed? Or will KDG registration be delayed until the board votes?

Kindergarten registration will still be held on February 28. We are asking parents to register their child at the school in which they are currently assigned. Once the School Board votes on the proposed changes, families will be notified of any changes. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause our families but feel it's important to register our kindergarten students sooner than later.

Wouldn't closing Lincoln along with some boundary changes, be enough to remedy the situation?

No. Lincoln Elementary School is a two-section building, which is not large enough to remedy the under-utilization challenges for the District. Two-section means that there are only two classrooms at each grade level.

After the meeting on 1/30, it appears some additional requests came out of the meeting. Has the vote been postponed if there is another meeting on February 20? Will KDG registration be postponed if the board has not voted?

The School Board is holding a special meeting on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. At that meeting, Administration will present its findings on the feasibility of closing Lincoln Elementary School and repurposing Fox Ridge. The School Board will take action on any recommendations from that meeting at its next regular meeting on March 12, 2018. (See question above for registration information)

The board mentioned adjusting the open enrollment policy is one of the discussion points on the agenda. At the meeting Dr. Pearson stated they would allow open enrollment for the 18/19 school year. What are the points of discussion on this topic and if changes are made, will it at least grandfather in 18/19 fifth grade students to apply for enrollment as the policy is today?

Currently, it is our intention to continue to offer choice at the elementary school level. We believe that we are partners with parents in the education of their children, and we feel that it is important for us to be as flexible as possible relative to choice within the constraints of our financial resources. There have been some discussions about letting 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Richmond complete their elementary years there because of the special programming. Those decisions will be made after the School Board votes on March 12.

Lincoln school has a lot of issues and yet you are thinking of moving children from other schools to Lincoln. According to another question "early childhood students that use walkers and are in need of OT and PT are not able to navigate the stairs", asphalt playground, accommodates 264 and now has 268 kids, another question on maintenance has your response that "the district has plans for improvements and upgrades for the next 5,10,20 years" making it over 100 years old. My question is why would you continue to spend our taxpayer dollars for a school built in 1928, half the size of most of the other schools, clearly has issues, and does not accommodate all the needs of the children?

A few years ago the plan was to close Lincoln and it could be district offices - what happened to that plan?

At its special meeting on February 20, the School Board will hear a presentation from District Administration on the feasibility of closing Lincoln Elementary School. The last time the District discussed closing Lincoln, the School Board decided to work on middle school facilities.

The Fox Ridge school can accommodate 504 children and there are 350 currently. - if your plan is to "re-purpose the school for early childhood development" aren't the 154 open spaces enough.

I hope there is not still a consideration to sell the property!  
We paid a lot of tax dollars to build this great school.

In addition to early childhood classrooms, space at Fox Ridge will be used for:

Early Childhood Diagnostic Team that screens incoming students

Early Childhood staff

District Related Services including:

- Walk in speech services
- Assisted technology facilitators
- Special Education records

Therapy Coordinators such as Speech and OT/PT

There is no consideration to close Fox Ridge. It will still be used as a school and will serve students who are 3-5 years old.

If the Fox Ridge school is going to be only an early childhood development school - how many children do you estimate will attend? Since this is fee based what happens if your estimates are not met?

There are currently three programs in place that will continue at Fox Ridge. We will combine the Fox Ridge, Norton Creek and Davis students at Fox Ridge.

1. Early Childhood is a special education program required by the State of Illinois
2. Pre-School is not required and families pay tuition
3. Pre-School For All (PFA) is not required and is paid out of a grant.

In those combined programs, we have approximately 197 students for the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, we are serving 40 walk-in Speech students (required by law).

There is a waiting list for our fee based program.

Curious with new subdivisions being built why wouldn't you feed them into lower attended schools?? This would have avoid moving kids that have already acclimated to current schools and now need to change.

The District is using this opportunity to right size our elementary schools and make the boundaries more contiguous. This will result in a more balanced enrollment throughout the District.

There are areas in the map that state "to be determined". Who decides which schools will be assigned to those areas? Will there be any public input or vote?

The areas on the proposed map listed as TBD are that way because there are currently no developments there. If and when apartments or homes are built, and families with children move in, the District will assign them to a school.

What year was birth data collected? From what I saw it was previous to the birth of 2 of my 3 kids. How are you accounting for this discrepancy?

The District receives updated birth data on an annual basis.

There are two petitions that have been signed by over 1200 people that do not want to see Fox Ridge school closed. There is an online petition at [www.savefoxridge.com](http://www.savefoxridge.com) that gets new signatures and comments daily and the other was presented to the school board. These are signatures of taxpayers/ neighbors/ parents of children currently attending and children who will be attending Fox Ridge School who do not want to see their neighborhood school close. Does the board or administration have any plan to acknowledge the citizens who oppose the plan? Is there any plan to have meetings where questions can be asked of the decision makers? Do the citizens get to have any voice in this matter or do they just watch their 350 kids being sent to 4 different schools and their property values going down? is there just going to be a vote on March 12 on what the school board and administration want to see happen with no consideration of the effect it will have on the people? Please respond.

The School Board and District Administration held community meetings and special School Board meetings in January and February where citizen comments were heard and questions were answered. At the special meeting on February 20, Board Members recommended that the original proposal to close and repurpose Fox Ridge be moved forward for action at the regular meeting on March 12, at which time they will entertain a vote. At that meeting, School Board members will also vote on the proposed boundary map.

I understand students will have to move to other schools due to new boundaries. Current Intra-District transfer students should therefore attend their home school within their zone. Some of these parents think they are grandfathered in. How will you remedy this situation? AGAIN, this effects class size and is simply not fair under these circumstances. How can you even think to offer Intra-District transfers?

At the meeting on March 12, the School Board approved a recommendation to modify the Intra-District Transfer policy for elementary schools to require an annual request from families who want to transfer their students. As part of the new boundaries, students are being assigned to their home school, and their families must complete a new transfer form on an annual basis. Transfers will be approved if there is space in the receiving school. The exception is current Richmond third and fourth grade students who will be allowed to stay at Richmond due to its special programming.

Our elementary school is Anderson, and we have signed up for after school care at Fox Ridge. With this school closing, what does that mean for the after school program for Anderson?

The District is working in collaboration with Baker Station to house after school programs at both Anderson and Lincoln next year.