

Recommendation for Declaration of Open Enrollment Schools to the BESD School Board

Submitted by: Megan Bushnell, *Director of Student Services*

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Century Elementary, Discovery Elementary, Fielding Elementary, Garland Elementary, Golden Spike Elementary, Lake View Elementary, McKinley Elementary, North Park Elementary, Willard Elementary, Bear River High School, Bear River Middle School, Box Elder High School, Box Elder Middle School, Harris Intermediate School, and Young Intermediate School be designated “closed.”

Recommended Motion:

I move that Century Elementary, Discovery Elementary, Fielding Elementary, Garland Elementary, Golden Spike Elementary, Lake View Elementary, McKinley Elementary, North Park Elementary, Willard Elementary, Bear River High School, Bear River Middle School, Box Elder High School, Box Elder Middle School, Harris Intermediate School, and Young Intermediate School *be designated as “closed.”*

Background:

Each year, Utah school districts are required to publicly announce which schools will be open to enrollment by students outside of a particular school’s established attendance area. Schools with an enrollment of at least 90% of the building’s core capacity can be closed to enrollment by students outside of the school’s attendance area.

Generally speaking, out-of-boundary students whose behavior and attendance are satisfactory can stay in a school once they have been admitted. However, the district does reserve the right to require out-of-boundary students to transfer back to their home schools based on student behavior, attendance, and/or overcrowded conditions.

The anticipated enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year identifies the following schools as being at or over the 90% threshold and thus closed to the enrollment of out-of-boundary students:

Century Elementary School, Bear River City	107% of capacity
Discovery Elementary School, Brigham City	113% of capacity
Fielding Elementary School, Fielding	129% of capacity
Garland Elementary School, Garland	105% of capacity
Golden Spike Elementary School, Brigham City	130% of capacity
Lake View Elementary School, Brigham City	134% of capacity
McKinley Elementary School, Tremonton	140% of capacity
North Park Elementary School, Tremonton	137% of capacity
Willard Elementary School, Willard	102% of capacity
Bear River High School, Tremonton	106% of capacity
Bear River Middle School, Tremonton	97% of capacity
Box Elder High School, Brigham City	117% of capacity
Box Elder Middle School, Brigham City	95% of capacity
Harris Intermediate School, Tremonton	98% of capacity
Young Intermediate School, Brigham City	90% of capacity

School to Watch:

Three Mile Creek Elementary School, Perry	78% of capacity
Sunrise High School, Brigham City	80% of capacity

In addition to closing entire schools to out-of-boundary students, specific grade levels can be closed in “open” schools due to student/teacher ratios or the lack of programs required by a specific child. During the June 20, 2012, meeting the Board recommended that out-of-boundary students should not be accepted when enrollment at

a grade level exceeded 10% of the state's median enrollment at that grade level during the previous year posted on the Utah State Board of Education's website.

Recommendation:

I recommend that this be changed to 10% less than the state's median enrollment to avoid overcrowding as most of our buildings are already at or over capacity. This allows room for students moving in boundaries during the school year.

The state's median enrollment during the 2026-2027 year is as follows:

Kindergarten	17.5	Third Grade	20.2
First Grade	18.3	Fourth Grade	21.7
Second Grade	19.4	Fifth Grade	21.4

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications other than the grade level guidelines are in alignment with previous Board recommendations.

Staff Implications:

There are no staff implications at this time.

Financial Implications:

Closing these 15 schools to out-of-boundary enrollment prevents the need for additional portable classrooms beyond those already in place. With multiple schools already operating between 90% and 140% of capacity, further enrollment growth would require significant capital expenditures for additional capacity solutions.