



# **SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION**

## **FOCUS 2018: FAQs**

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### **1. *Why is Focus 2018 necessary?***

This new organizational plan is being proposed to address many challenges that have emerged since the adoption of the previous plan (Plan Z) 15 years ago, as well as to be compliant with the United States Justice Department Consent Decree. The plan aims to:

- improve student achievement
- maximize instructional effectiveness
- maintain racial diversity
- address changing community demographics
- address enrollment trends
- utilize resources most efficiently for current needs

### **2. *Will schools be closed or repurposed?***

Eggleston, Brown and Greene will be closed; Marshall and Perley will be repurposed.

### **3. *How did SBCSC choose which schools to close/repurpose?***

Decisions were informed by current and anticipated demographic trends and based on multiple factors including enrollment, building condition, geographic location and building capacity.

### **4. *Why will boundaries be redrawn?***

This is necessary to bring more schools into racial compliance with the guidelines of the Consent Decree and to balance student assignments for more efficient use of underutilized facilities. Additionally, this will reduce the overall number of facilities needed based on the proposed return to a more traditional grade pattern.

**5. Why will bell times change?**

There is a significant amount of brain research, including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, conducted on adolescents, with data pointing to the learning benefits of more sleep and a later school start time. Additionally, the new times will allow for more instructional time at the elementary level -- our school day is currently the shortest in the area. The school day will remain the same length at middle schools and high schools. These changes will also streamline transportation, eliminating the need for shuttles, directly routing students to their home school or school of choice.

**6. Why are grades being re-configured?**

The proposed shift is in response to interest at all levels to have 5th grade students return to elementary schools and create a traditional middle school model of grades 6, 7 and 8.

**7. What does this mean for magnet schools?**

- There are no changes to the high school magnet programs.
- A new International Baccalaureate magnet school will be offered at the current Clay Intermediate Center for students in kindergarten through grade 8.
- LaSalle will remain an all-district academy for middle school students. Acceptance is based on testing, capacity, and racial compliance.
- Jefferson will remain a traditional magnet school for middle school students. Jefferson has a boundary area, but students from other middle schools can apply. Acceptance is based on capacity and racial compliance.
- Dickinson will remain a Fine Arts magnet school for middle school students. Dickinson has a boundary area, but students from other middle schools can apply. Acceptance is based on capacity and racial compliance.
- Jackson will continue to have the Project Lead the Way magnet program. It is a “school within a school” model similar to the high school magnet programs. Jackson has a boundary area, but students from other middle schools can apply. Acceptance is based on capacity and racial compliance.
- Kennedy will remain an all-district academy for elementary school students. Acceptance is based on testing, capacity, and racial compliance.
- The fine arts magnet school for elementary students will move from Perley to Nuner. Nuner has a boundary area, but students from other elementary schools can apply. Acceptance is based on capacity and racial compliance.

- The Montessori school at Marquette will change from the current grade configuration of Pre-K to grade 3, to Pre-K to grade 6. Marquette will no longer have a boundary area.
- Due to the addition of 5th grade students at elementary schools, the traditional school program at Tarkington will be relocated to Swanson to accommodate the additional classes of students. All students and staff from Tarkington will be reassigned to Swanson. Swanson will not have a boundary. Students from Darden, McKinley, Muessel, Tarkington, Coquillard, and Warren boundaries will be able to apply to Swanson Traditional School. All students and staff from Swanson Primary Center will be reassigned to Tarkington Elementary School. Tarkington will have a boundary.
- Hamilton will remain a Traditional School. Students assigned to Hay, Lincoln, Madison, Monroe, Nuner, Harrison, and Wilson will be eligible to apply to Hamilton Traditional School. Coquillard will no longer be a traditional school.
- Madison STEAM Academy will accept magnet students outside their boundary area, with transportation provided.
- McKinley's Dual Language Immersion program will expand to 1st grade for 2018-19 and accept magnet students outside their boundary area, with transportation provided.

#### **8. *What is the Consent Decree?***

The South Bend School Corporation entered into a Consent Decree with the United States Department of Justice and implemented the South Bend Community School Corporation Desegregation/Integration Reorganization Plan in September of 1981, which specified the following objectives:

- to remove racial imbalance from its public schools
- to insure educational opportunities for all students without regard to race, color, or national origin
- to ensure that the percent of black students in each school be within fifteen percent of the total black students in that grade range (elementary, middle, high) within the Corporation.

#### **9. *How many students will be reassigned?***

- Currently there are 1,188 students at Perley, Brown, Greene, and Marshall. Those students will be reassigned to other schools based on their home address.
- Students at other schools may be reassigned due to modified boundaries.
- Students will continue to be assigned to schools based on their home address.
- Students at all levels will continue to have options to apply to magnet programs and schools.

**10. What will happen to the SBCSC employees at the schools that will close?**

We anticipate that displaced teachers will have employment opportunities at other SBCSC buildings, and employees whose jobs will be surplus are eligible to apply for open positions. Additionally, SBCSC will host a job fair for both certified and non-certified employees. The Human Resources Department will support surplus employees with resume assistance and interview training.

**11. How will this new plan affect transportation?**

- High school students will now be directly routed to their schools. The shuttle system will be eliminated.
- Transportation will now be provided to all students attending magnet programs and schools.
- New transportation routes will be developed to align with new student assignments patterns.

**12. What is the financial impact to SBCSC?**

By operating fewer buildings, the school corporation will realize savings in utility costs and insurance. Additional savings will be realized with the elimination of a number of positions, including administrative, secretarial, custodial, food service, and other support positions. The estimated savings is projected to be \$8,005,487 for building operations (this includes long-term repair cost capture) and \$3,748,114 in payroll (certified and non-certified staff).

**13. When will the Board of Trustees vote on Focus 2018? And what happens if/when the plan is approved?**

- The Board of School Trustees is scheduled to vote on the plan at their regular meeting on Monday, December 18. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. and is held on the third floor of the Administration Building, 215 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- The plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure it meets the guidelines of the Consent Decree.

**14. When will parents/students be notified of new school assignments?**

After the plan has been approved by the Department of Justice, students will receive confirmation of their school assignment for 2018-2019.

**15. When will this plan go into effect?**

The new bell times, student assignments, and building closures will go into effect in August 2018.

**16. Where can I provide feedback and/or get more information about this plan?**

- At our website: [sb.school/Focus2018](http://sb.school/Focus2018)
- Send an e-mail to: [Focus2018@sb.school](mailto:Focus2018@sb.school)

**17. *When will magnet applications be available?***

Students in who will be in kindergarten through grade 8 next school year (2018-19) will be able to apply to magnet schools beginning January 8, 2018. The application deadline will be February 16, 2017.

**18. *If a student has been assigned to a new school, but is interested in remaining in their current school, is there a process to stay?***

Students may apply to attend a school other than their home school by completing a request for transfer. This request is only for non-magnet schools. Transfer requests will be approved based on capacity and racial compliance.

**19. *When will the new K-8 program at Clay become an International Baccalaureate school?***

Work has already begun to bring the early years and middle years program at Clay Academy. The program cannot officially be called "International Baccalaureate" until the at least the beginning of the 2019-20 school year because of the in-depth application process.

**20. *Are there any new programs at the high schools?***

There are a number of new course offerings at the high schools. Clay High School will now be able to award the AP (advanced placement) Capstone Diploma. Clay High School will be only one of fourteen high schools in the state of Indiana to be able to award this diploma. It is very similar to the IB diploma which is available to students at Adams High School. Students currently in 8th grade may apply for this new option at Clay by completing a high school magnet application by December 22, 2017.