

DRIPPING SPRINGS ISD

UPDATE FOR REALTORS AND BUILDERS (3.1.17)



CURRENT ENROLLMENT:

Dripping Springs ISD's enrollment as of Feb. 20 is 6,008 students, as compared to 5,639 at this same time last year (growth rate of 6.6%). Individual school enrollments are:

Dripping Springs Elementary	1005
Rooster Springs Elementary	943
Walnut Springs Elementary	898
Dripping Springs Middle School	1,444
Dripping Springs High School	1,718

NEW SCHOOLS:

The Board of Trustees approved names for the new schools located on Sawyer Ranch Road at the Jan. 23 meeting. The new elementary school is Sycamore Springs Elementary and the new middle school is Sycamore Springs Middle School. The Board had determined the desire to continue the tradition of naming DSISD schools after natural springs that exist within the district boundaries. Sycamore Springs is located south of town and according to historical references "was conveyed to the public school trustees in 1893 to be used for the education of the neighborhood children."

ATTENDANCE ZONES:

The district has spent several months in a process to determine new elementary and middle school attendance zones for the 2017-18 school year. Feedback was gathered, the administrative committee worked through many options to determine which were viable, and information was shared with the community.

As we expected, this process was not easy. Parents expressed very strong opinions about what campuses they would like their children to attend. Unfortunately, because of the layout and population distribution of our district, all families cannot attend the school that is the fewest miles from home. We are fortunate in our district that all of our schools are excellent schools. The reason parents feel so strongly is a matter of convenience, not quality of education. The district tried to accommodate as many families as possible, while still responsibly using available space in existing facilities. In other words, it would not have been efficient or responsible to open a new campus at 100 percent+ capacity and have a half-empty campus elsewhere.

It also is important to remember that, over time, attendance zones may be altered, even if a new school is not being opened. The only definite information that realtors should provide is the current attendance zone boundaries or, in this case, attendance zones that have been approved by the DSISD Board of Trustees.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Sycamore Springs ES/MS :

These schools, which will have initial capacities for 850 elementary students and 850 middle school students (designed for future expansion to 1,200 middle school students), are on schedule for completion for the 2017-18 school year.

Multi-Purpose Stadium:

A multi-purpose stadium is complete and a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued; in fact, a few soccer games have been played there recently. A grand opening will be planned.

THE FUTURE—PROPERTY OWNED BY THE DISTRICT:

The attendance zone discussion included a look ahead to elementary #5 (and even #6). The district owns two additional properties at this time: 25 acres on RR12 near Mt. Gainor Road, and 155 acres at the intersection of Sawyer Ranch Road and Darden Hill. While the RR12/Mt. Gainor location was purchased with the intent of using it for elementary school #5, it is also possible that the next elementary school could be built at Sawyer Ranch/Darden Hill. In fact, maps with “catchment zones” for these two options were drawn up as part of the attendance zone planning process. This decision will be made down the road.