

Frequently Asked Questions about Boundary Changes in District 51-4, Rapid City Area Schools

Q1. Why is the District changing the boundaries?

A1. After examining school boundaries and monitoring current and projected enrollments, the Rapid City Area School District has changed boundaries effective for the 2012-13 school year for two reasons. Dakota Middle School will close at the end of the 2011-12 school year and East Middle School will open in the fall of 2012. The District is also working to balance enrollment at other schools. Our goal is to balance school building enrollments and class sizes across the district to provide optimal learning environments for all our students. We are establishing a feeder school system so that students will follow an assigned path from elementary to middle school and then to high school.

Q2. Do I live in an area affected by a boundary change?

A2. Boundaries will change for the following schools: Dakota Middle School, North Middle School, South Middle School, Southwest Middle School, West Middle School, South Park Elementary, Valley View Elementary, Central High School, and Stevens High School.

Q3. Do my children have to change schools if they've already been attending at their 2011-12 school year home school?

A3. If your children are enrolled at their home school during the 2011-12 school year in kindergarten through eleventh grade, and you live in an area affected by the boundary change, your children will have the option of remaining at their current school until they move on to middle school or high school or attending the newly designated school starting in August 2012.

Q4. What do I need to do if I want my child(ren) to remain at their current home school?

A4. If you wish to have your child remain at the school they've been attending, please complete the Boundary Change Transfer Form available at the Office of Student Achievement, 300 6th Street, Rapid City, SD 57701 by the end of the day January 6, 2012. If we do not receive the form, your student will attend the school in the new boundary area in the fall of 2012.

Q5. What about younger siblings of students?

A5. This form can also be completed for siblings when an older child is enrolled at the former home school and a younger child is beginning school. Therefore, two children in the same family will not be in two different schools.

Q6. Where do I register my kindergarten child for 2012-2013?

A6. Kindergarten screening will be held from March to May, 2012 with specific dates for each school. Register your child at the newly designated school.

Q7. When will the boundary changes take place?

A7. August, 2012.

Q8. I still have general questions about the boundary changes. Where can I get more information?

A8. If you have any questions or are unsure what school will be serving your address for the 2012-2013 school year, you may contact the Office of Student Achievement at 394-4037 (elementary) or 394-5147 (secondary). Thank you for your patience as we transition to the new boundaries.

A9. You may also view a map of the middle school boundaries online at www.rcas.org; then go to Administration and choose the Superintendent of Schools webpage.