



Pasco County Schools

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools
7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

November 7, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As superintendent, my job is to ensure that every student in Pasco County Schools receives a quality education in a safe learning environment. When student enrollment exceeds a school's capacity there is a considerable burden placed on the entire school community. We are finding ourselves in this situation as the enrollment of several district schools exceeds their capacity, and now that new home construction is on the upswing, we will be seeing more strain on our schools.

With the number of new homes being built within the current school attendance zones for Mitchell High School and Seven Springs Middle School, we have to redraw boundaries in order to keep the schools as close to capacity as possible. Overcrowded schools do not present ideal safety or learning conditions. In addition, the fact is that nearby schools have capacity that needs to be filled. The district does not receive adequate funding to build schools for all new communities and we have an obligation to all Pasco County taxpayers to use the resources we do have wisely.

The proposed boundary changes won't be ready in time for us to print them with this letter, so we can't say for sure if your school will be affected, but we didn't want to delay sending this notice. Details of the committee recommendation will be posted at <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/planning/rezoning/>. We will include information on that page to clarify which schools will be affected. We have scheduled a parent meeting to share information about the boundary proposal, as follows:

6 p.m. Monday, November 14, 2016
River Ridge High School Center for Performing Arts
11646 Town Center Road
New Port Richey, FL 34654

During the meeting, staff will review the boundary process and discuss the factors that contributed to these recommended boundary changes. We also will accept parent feedback at that time. Feedback received at the parent meeting will be considered at a follow-up boundary committee meeting, before a recommendation is sent to the School Board for approval. The board-approved boundaries will take effect with the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

It is always difficult to change school boundaries because we realize that families move into neighborhoods with the belief that their schools come with their homes. Unfortunately, with the growth Pasco County is experiencing, we no longer can promise that school boundaries won't change. What we can promise is that we will always strive to fulfill our mission to provide a world-class education to all students at every Pasco County school.

Sincerely,

Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent of Schools